

مكاتبنا في لندن

Monday September 30 1996

Abu Dhabi D 0.50	Greece D 0.40	Norway NK 1.6
Andorra FF 1.20	Hong Kong HK 2.5	Poland P 1.10
Australia AU 3.00	India IN 1.00	Portugal P 1.10
Belgium BF 0.85	Indonesia ID 1.00	Romania R 1.10
Canada CA 3.00	Italy I 1.00	Saudi Arabia R 1.0
Denmark DK 1.20	Japan J 1.00	South Africa R 1.0
France F 1.00	Kenya KE 1.00	Spain S 1.00
Germany G 1.00	Libya LY 1.00	Sweden SE 1.00
Greece D 0.40	Lithuania LT 1.00	Switzerland SF 3.20
Hong Kong HK 2.5	Malaysia M 1.00	Taiwan T 1.00
India IN 1.00	Netherlands NL 1.00	USA US 2.75
Indonesia ID 1.00	New Zealand NZ 1.00	
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Japan J 1.00		
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Malaysia M 1.00		
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New Zealand NZ 1.00		
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Poland P 1.10		
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Romania R 1.10		
Saudi Arabia R 1.0		
South Africa R 1.0		
Spain S 1.00		
Sweden SE 1.00		
Switzerland SF 3.20		
Taiwan T 1.00		
USA US 2.75		

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Kicking and screaming

G2 with European weather



Media

The story the BBC will not run

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SportExtra

Man Utd scupper Spurs, Liverpool wallop West Ham



Widow fights for baby by dead husband

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

A YOUNG widow is battling for the right to conceive a baby using sperm taken from her dead husband, in the first case of its kind in Britain.

Her attempt to bear the child her husband wanted is being blocked by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), which insists that the law requires his consent in writing. The sperm was taken from the 30-year-old man while he was in a coma on a life support machine. His widow, who has ob-

tained a court order guaranteeing anonymity, will take her legal action to the High Court in London on Wednesday.

Identified only by her initials, DB, she has had to take out a second mortgage on her house to finance the case, which could cost her more than £80,000 if she loses. The couple, from the Midlands, married in 1991 after a nine-year relationship. They started trying for a baby in January 1995 but two months later Mr B, a manager with a home improvement firm, contracted bacterial meningitis. He went into a coma and was pronounced brain dead four days later. At the request of

Mrs B, who is now aged 30, doctors at Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield agreed to take samples of sperm from her husband before switching off the life support machine. He was clinically dead when the second sample was taken.

Several months before, she says, she and her husband had read a magazine article about a widow impregnated by her dead husband's sperm. "We agreed that if we were ever in that situation, that's what we'd like to do," she told the Guardian.

The preserved sperm samples have lain in storage for the last 18 months at Jessop's Hospital, Sheffield, while the HFEA and Mrs B's lawyers

argued over her right to be inseminated with them.

Mrs B wants to be treated in Britain, or failing that, to have the samples exported to a clinic abroad. Doctors in Belgium and the US have agreed to carry out the procedure.

The HFEA maintains that it would be unlawful to use them in Britain without written consent, and will not export them abroad for a purpose for which they could not be used here.

Mrs B, who runs a small business, has already run up more than £50,000 in legal bills with a City of London solicitors' firm before switching

"Had I been pregnant when my husband died and I'd turned round to everybody and said 'I don't want a baby now I haven't got a husband, I'm getting an abortion', that would have been fine. My husband's wishes wouldn't have counted. But not the other way around."

The case is expected to be heard by Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court's Family Division and England's senior family judge. Lord Lester, Mrs B's QC, will argue that the requirement for consent applies only where sperm comes from a third party, not from the woman's husband.

Under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, 1990, which regulates artificial insemination, written consent is not needed where a couple are treated "together". Lord Lester will contend that this includes cases where a husband's sperm is used after his death to inseminate his wife.

He will also argue that the authority has erred in law in adopting an inflexible policy on exporting sperm, and that under European law it may not restrict access to medical treatment in other EC member states.

Mrs B said: "What is totally bizarre is that I could have treatment with the sperm of an anonymous donor, who

could be dead as long as he'd left a piece of paper. Surely it would be better for a child to know that his father loved his mother, it was wanted, it was planned."

Before the 1990 act, there was nothing to stop a woman in Mrs B's situation from being inseminated with her dead husband's sperm. Her solicitor, Richard Stein, a partner in the law firm Leigh Day & Co, who recently took over the case, said no problem would have arisen if she had been inseminated while her husband was still on life support.

Ruth Deech, chairman of the HFEA, said: "The matter of consent is fundamental to

the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, 1990. This act specifically requires consent of a man to storage and use of his gametes, i.e. his sperm, after his death."

"Written consent can only be obtained after the donor has had an opportunity to receive proper counselling, including consideration of the welfare of any child that might be born."

She said that directions made under the act banning export of sperm unless it could lawfully be used in Britain "seek to ensure that the principle of written consent is not evaded by the export of gametes for storage and use abroad."

Blair wheels and deals to get pensions compromise

Michael White
Political Editor

TONY Blair was last night still a whisker away from securing a trouble-free Blackpool conference after a frantic day of wheeler-dealing failed to secure the certain support of key unions and party activists over his compromise proposals on pensions.

As Mr Blair put the finishing touches to his vision for "The Decent Society", party strategists admitted the conference could still end up facing both ways thanks to union commitments on employment rights and pensions. The compromise scheme, agreed by Labour's ruling national executive committee (NEC), would create a standing commission to consider pension issues, with

on the need for economic caution in language that may stiffen the rebels' determination. "No quick fixes, no easy options, no voodoo economics," the shadow chancellor will say.

In stitching up their plans for a triumphal week, the organisers need two portman-teau motions, due to be debated on Wednesday, remitted without a vote. That can only happen if two London constituency parties, Southall and Poplar & Canning Town, agree.

If they refuse, such large voting blocs as the Transport & General Workers Union (T&GWU) and the GMB general union — whose delegations meet to discuss their position today — will first vote for the standing commission and then back the two motions supporting Lady Castle.

Mr Brown's controversial plan to re-target child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds would also be hit in the crossfire. In a separate battle, there is also the prospect that different unions will publicly put different interpretations on a fudged formula that speaks of restoring unfair dismissal rights for workers the moment they start in a job, rather than after two years.

Since Mr Blair's team is stressing the need to win power on the basis of restored trust with the electorate, this may create mild embarrassment. Mr Brown said yesterday that Labour should "say what it is going to do and mean what it says".

Yesterday all the key figures were singing from the same hymn sheet with Mr Prescott echoing Mr Brown in stressing the need for wealth creation as part of New Labour's drive to put traditional values — "fairness, justice and partnership" — into a modern setting.

They all sidestepped details of tax changes under a Blair government. On BBC1's Breakfast with Frost yesterday Mr Brown insisted: "The idea that Labour wants to tax people out of envy and malice, that we want to punish them, is completely untrue." "There would be no 'punitive taxation'," he added. But in today's speech he will warn the privatised utilities that he remains determined to take their excess profits in windfall tax to finance plans for jobs for young and the long-term unemployed.

'I think they are running scared because there has been so much support for our very reasonable statement about what the party should do.'

Lady Castle yesterday

pensioners groups represented, but only after Mr Blair has safely been elected. It was the backing of big unions and of 83-year-old Jack Jones, ex-leader of the transport workers, now president of the National Pensioners Convention.

But the frail figure of Baroness Barbara Castle, now 88, still stood between the Blair forces and victory. She said of the leadership: "I think they are running scared because there has been so much support for our very reasonable statement about what the party should do."

Last night she was resisting the blandishments of Gordon Brown who will make his own conference speech today



Tony Blair and Cherie Booth at Blackpool's North Shore Methodist church yesterday. Mr Blair will preach to a less united congregation this week. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

Clinton calls crisis summit

Jonathan Freedland
in Washington and
Derek Brown in Jerusalem

PRESIDENT Clinton put his personal prestige on the line yesterday, summoning Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat to a White House summit aimed at reviving the Middle East peace process. The meeting could take place as early as tomorrow.

Mr Netanyahu accepted immediately but Mr Arafat was insisting that the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, should also attend and planned to fly to Cairo today to persuade him to do so, according to a Palestine Liberation Organisation official. King Hussein of Jordan will also go to Washington.

As Israeli and Palestinian security measures helped avoid a repeat of last week's widespread clashes, a stern-faced Mr Clinton announced his summit initiative from the Rose Garden. "I will do everything in my power to



Bill Clinton: 'We must move the peace process forward'

end the violence," he said. "It is our responsibility to do whatever we can to protect the peace process and help move it forward."

United States officials signalled that the meeting would last no more than two days. "This is a crisis situation," the secretary of state, Warren Christopher, said, describing the current trouble as the

worst in the three years since the historic handshake between Mr Arafat and the former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawn.

Television diplomacy yesterday offered little ground for optimism. Appearing on US political talk-shows, Mr Netanyahu refused to close the 2,200-year-old tunnel near Jerusalem's Temple Mount that sparked the latest violence. "It's open and it will stay open," he said, dismissing the issue as an excuse for Palestinian riots.

Mr Netanyahu did not even rule out a proposal by hard-liners in his rightwing Likud party for Israel to disarm the 30,000 members of the Palestinian police as punishment for shooting Israeli soldiers.

Mr Netanyahu insisted that before Israel will consider redeploying its occupation forces in the West Bank flash-point town of Hebron, it will insist on "modifications" to the withdrawal plan agreed last week.

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The widening gulf, page 6; letters, page 8

Fife five are four but still they play a round

John Muffin

THERE were five of them at Kinghorn Golf Club in Fife, pensioners who played together regularly for years. Five, that was, until one dropped dead.

Jimmy Hogg was 77 and first to play. He had just fired his customary fine shot from the first tee when he suffered a heart attack and collapsed.

His playing partners, dubbed the Grumpy Old Men by fellow members, faced a dilemma. Abandon the round, or continue. It was no contest. No sooner was Mr Hogg in the ambulance than the four-some began their round.

Jack Keelhin, aged 75, told the Sunday Mail: "It might seem terrible, but we are all of a certain age, and I'm sure Jimmy would have wanted us to do that. He would have done the same."

Johnny Lea, 77, said: "Jimmy hit a great shot right down the middle of the fairway. He was a great golfer. 'Maybe with hindsight, it was a bit heartless. But it was a spur of the moment decision.'"

Jimmy's daughter, Anna, bore them no ill-will. "The way he died," she said, "he wouldn't have wanted it any other way."

Inside

Britain
A judge's appeal Court will be heard by some women judges and barristers had succeeded because of their sex.

World News
Defence lawyers at the International Tribunal on Rwanda will argue there was no slaughter of Tutsis; and say the victims were Hutus.

Finance
New Labour's corporate blueprint faces twin perils of disbelief and disillusionment in election battle.

Sport
Liverpool went three points ahead in the Premiership with a 2-1 win at West Ham. Manchester United won 2-0 at home to Tottenham.

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Paint job in cause of new world disorder

The raver radicals are all in place, the walls are thick with graffiti, solidarity is in the air, the drums are beating... but does anyone know where the dockers are?

Monday sketch



John Vidal

THE old Liverpool Customs House is a two-storey 1960s architectural aberration. It slumps empty behind fortified walls in sight of silent docks and redundant cranes. But yesterday afternoon it was pulsating to a dozen samba drums and talk of a radical new alignment in British politics.

University lecturer excitedly waving vegetable burger: "This is the first time we've got opposite ends of the spectrum of anti-capitalist activism together."

PhD student: "Blair and the political parties are irrelevant here. We are not working from a polarised agenda. Union activist (waving hand): "There's a new spirit of radicalism in the land. I've never seen anything like this..." This is the Morning After

the Party party meeting in Liverpool.

Three hundred unofficial delegates have squatted the government building and after a full day's marching with gaudy banner, drum and pantomime dragon beside Liverpool dockers who have been on strike a year, they are now waking up.

Ravers, environmentalists, anti-car groups, animal rights, pro-Justice, land-for-all make up a coalition of young radicals calling themselves Reclaim the Future.

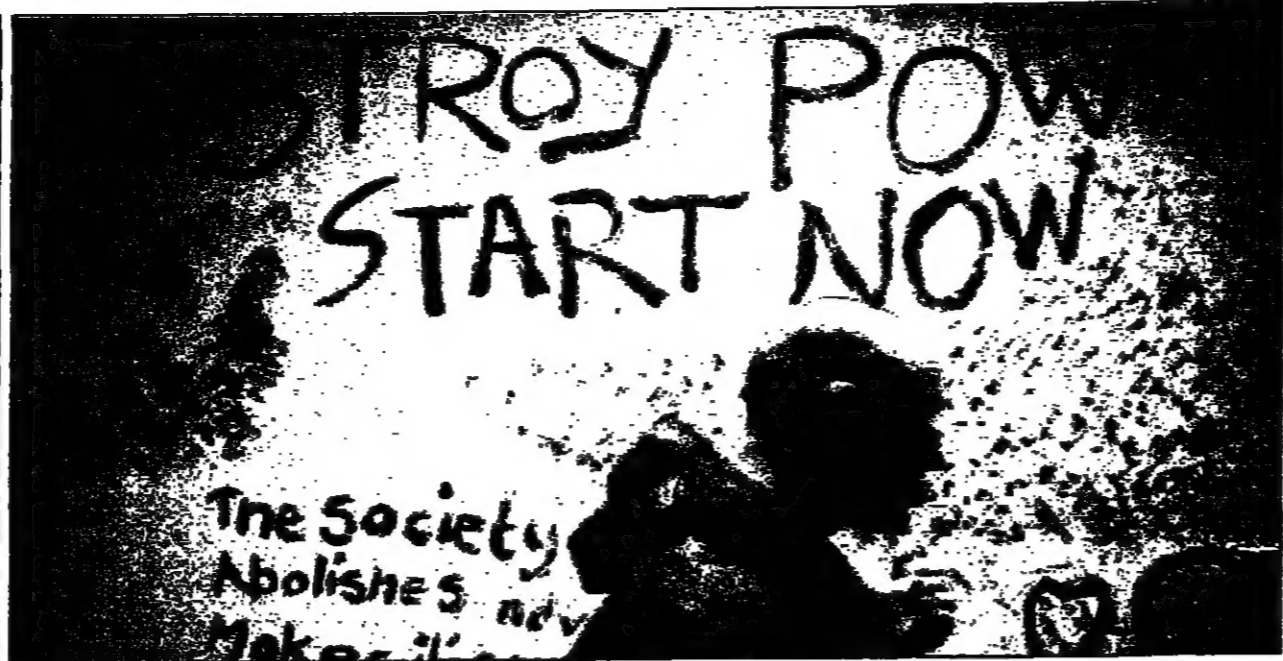
They blink, and, like the boy in the Yellow Pages ad, look at the devastation around them.

The Customs House may have needed paint, but this is absurd. Every wall is covered in graffiti ranging from (mild) Phillip Larkin to (rude) Animal Lib. Every door, every window is covered in slogans.

For half the activists the graffiti is a welcome first sign of the trashing of "Babylon" and the consumer society. Others, though, theorise that if an enemy citadel has been taken, it should be looked after.

And so, as one faction adds more graffiti, others are painting it out in a politically beige arrangement of spongedaubed conceptual patterns and DIY hieroglyph.

Shannon (a singer): "I



One element in the graffiti artists' message from the Liverpool docks

wouldn't want the dockers or anyone else arriving here and saying: 'If this is the future, come out.'

Dave (radical graffiti artist): "There's a man in prison for his graffiti! It's expression. Don't censor it!" Shannon (painting fever-

ishly over sexist, racist and other offending words): "But I don't like it!" Bill (older, wiser): "I'm getting a new perspective about a different sort of struggle." Out in the corridors, there is an air of political freshers' fair. The Floughshares group

is giving a workshop but the dockers' wives have not appeared. Most people want to hear them. In their absence small groups gather to discuss the weekend of solidarity with the dockers which should end with a massive rally today

with a little specialist help by Reclaim the Streets activists. By 4.30pm, the samba drummers are in full swing, a rainbow flag hangs over the Customs House, and it is clear that the dockers, for all their intentions, will not be meeting their

goals. The activists are not too concerned by what others might interpret as a brush-off by horny-handed elders. They call a meeting to discuss why they are in Liverpool, risking prison and harassment for others. The reasons given veer from the emotional ("We believe in the dockers", "We think they are different", "We need their example") through the esoteric ("Every dance is a protest") to the political ("Because Blair and Labour will not even admit that we exist, that's why...").

The perspective is young and idealistic. "I came to get a clearer idea of the dockers' struggle and what I've learned is that you can come together but you need the right sociological context. This way you can break down all the labelling of people. We don't feel that we are tied to any organisation here. This is a roll-on, roll-off protest," says Mark.

Down below, a graffiti artist is scrawling "Destroy Powa". It's for dyslexia, he explains. He says the dockers know what real militancy is. "Some are crap, some are all right, just like everyone."

So far, though, the alliance between young eco-radical and older dockers is uneasy. But the potential for togetherness is apparent. "They need

us to live up their dull marching. We need them to broaden our own struggle. We've got a lot in common really," says Jim, last seen at Newbury.

For a start, no dockers have turned up at the Customs House and there is grumbling that no-one is getting the chance to exchange views. The cry goes up "Where are the dockers?" One man says he went to the Flying Piglet pub but only found New Labourites. "I got quite a lot of support, but there were no dockers there."

The unions, it is agreed by the under-30s, are ossified, the political parties deaf to their concerns. "People desperately want a clear vision and a coming together of groups. But there is a real danger that we will just be seen as disillusioned middle classes," says one university student.

"I think this is one of the first times that young people have shown any public concern for workers' causes," says a dockers' support campaigner from London. "The trade union method of struggle clearly hasn't worked. Who knows where this will go?"

Yes, he agrees, it is very odd that people who do not want jobs should be trying to help others to get theirs. "It's a melting pot here, isn't it?"

NHS tops list of private health care providers

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

THE National Health Service has become the leading provider of private health care because of the rapid growth of paybeds in trust hospitals, figures show today.

Paybeds last year grabbed almost a sixth of the market for private acute care, overtaking the two top independent operators and helping trigger the first fall in numbers of private hospital beds in a decade.

The development will cause unease across the political spectrum. Critics on the left will see it as further evidence of NHS privatisation; those on the right will claim the Government's health market system has undermined the private sector by allowing trusts to compete unfairly.

On present trends, the NHS will consolidate its paradoxical position as leading private provider and will force the closure of independent hospitals unable to compete, according to the authoritative Fitzhugh Directory of Independent Healthcare and Long-term Care.

"Casualties look inevitable and some would suggest it is not before time if these are out-dated hospitals providing a limited range of medical facilities," says the directory's editor, William Fitzhugh.

"There is no doubt that the industry has in the past sustained hospitals which few industry executives would wish to use personally."

There are no accurate figures for the number of NHS paybeds, as the Department of Health stopped collecting data in 1991 when the market system started. Almost three-

quarters of trusts report private patient income, but the main growth is attributed to an estimated 74 trusts with separate private patient units.

More than 50 trusts last year each made more than £1 million from private patients, with seven — all in London — making more than £5 million.

The Fitzhugh Directory says NHS private patient income has risen from £94 million in 1990, when it was 10.9 per cent of the market, to £225 million last year, when it was 16.5 per cent.

Since 1994, the NHS has overhauled Bupa Hospitals and General Healthcare Group (formerly BML Healthcare), although the latter has also fallen back because it sold three London hospitals.

Total private hospital bed numbers have fallen from 11,377 in 223 units in 1993 to 11,098 in 221 this year, according to the directory.

Forecasting a possible 20 per cent market share for the NHS by the end of the decade, Mr Fitzhugh says: "The forces to preserve and extend NHS private sector activity are now too powerful to be eliminated."

Private hospital operators are already alarmed at the prospect, disclosed this month, of a tie-up between the NHS Trust Federation and the Norwich Union, the private health insurer. Barry Hassell, chief executive of the Independent Healthcare Association, last night called on the Tories and Labour to make clear where they stood on trusts' freedom to pursue private patient income.

"Trusts are taking unacceptable risks with taxpayers' money. The Government should enforce Treasury rules on their commercial activities," Mr Hassell said.



Peter Young outside his home in Amersham

Banker paid £1/2m in cash for home

Fred Murphy

A QUESTION mark over how Peter Young, the disgraced City fund manager at the centre of a scandal over the alleged misuse of investment money, was able to pay £450,000 in cash for his family's five-bedroom home in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, has sparked a formal police investigation into Mr Young's affairs.

The house was raided by officials from the Serious Fraud Office and the City of London Police on Friday night. Mr Young, who was dismissed by his employers, German-owned investment bank Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, a fortnight ago for gross misconduct, was present during the raid. So were his wife, Harrianna, and two sons.

Police spent three hours at the house removing documents, but no arrests were made.

Over the past month, Morgan Grenfell and Imro, a City watchdog responsible for regulating the investment management industry, have been investigating possible irregu-

larities in three unit investment trusts run by Mr Young. The trusts, which were suspended briefly while Morgan quantified a series of unsuitable investments in small high-risk companies, had attracted some £1.4 billion from 90,000 investors across the UK and Europe. Morgan's parent, Deutsche Bank, had to pump more than £180 million into the trusts and has promised

investors to compensate them.

Investigators believe the house was purchased earlier this year with a loan from one of a series of "holding companies" set up by Mr Young. These companies, which were registered in Luxembourg, were allegedly used by Mr Young to disguise the high-risk nature of his investment strategies.

Investors' money was being directed into small high-risk

companies, typically high-technology and drug development firms, which had yet to achieve a listing on a recognised stock exchange.

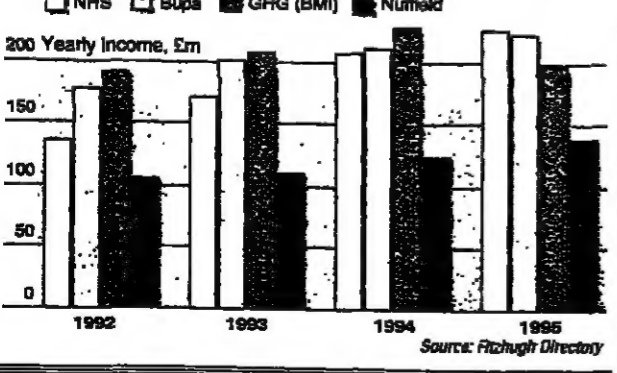
Investigators have been trying to unravel a series of transactions, which also extended to a personal bank account controlled by Mr Young in Jersey, the offshore financial centre.

Mr Young was not available for comment yesterday, but since the scandal broke a month ago he has consistently denied he sought any personal gain from his investment strategy and that his superiors approved his dealings.

Morgan Grenfell is expected to wrap up its internal investigation into the three unit trusts within the next fortnight.

Four of Mr Young's superiors — Keith Percy, head of the investment bank's asset management division; Michael Wheatley, compliance director for fund management; Graham Kane, head of Morgan's unit trust business; and Glynn Owen, chief investment officer for Europe — are believed to be fighting for their jobs.

Private health providers



Clinton calls summit

continued from page 1

by the last government almost a year ago.

Mr Arafat will argue that Israel's go-along policies have failed, and that talks should resume on the original peace-land formula.

He will also press for the closure of the tourist tunnel in Jerusalem, which for Arabs has become a potent symbol of Zionist expansion.

The violence which claimed 70 lives last week tapered away over the weekend. There was a brief riot at the site of the new tunnel entrance in the Old City yesterday, when it reopened for a trickle of tourists heavily outnumbered by armed police.

In the territories controlled by Mr Arafat, PLO forces quickly quelled any protests which threatened to turn into

confrontations with Israeli troops.

All the Palestinian self-rule enclaves in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been sealed by Israeli troops. Dozens of tanks have been moved into position around the autonomous areas.

Israeli military sources confirmed that the army had carried out the first two phases of a three-part plan, codenamed Field of Thorns, to contain any Palestinian uprising in the self-rule areas. The third part of the plan, to invade and reoccupy the autonomous areas, has not been activated, they said.

Mr Arafat, in an interview with the Israeli daily Yediot Ahronoth, rejected Mr Netanyahu's charges that he deliberately fomented last week's violence. "Members of our

police force did not receive a single order from any officer to open fire against Israelis. When policemen fired, it was only when they felt themselves to be under danger, and saw a need to defend themselves," he said.

Asked if he had used the tunnel dispute as an excuse to grab a political advantage by causing trouble on the streets, he said: "If you [Israelis] knew that we were waiting for an opportunity, why did you supply one? We were simply stunned when we heard about the opening of the tunnel."

A United Nations Security Council resolution over the weekend indirectly called on Israel to close the tunnel while stopping short of outright condemnation. The US abstained.

Same tour, but different country roads for two American songwriters

Review

Adam Sweeting

Lyle Lovett/Mary Chapin Carpenter

IT WAS 10 years ago that Lyle Lovett first met Mary Chapin Carpenter. He was travelling alone with his guitar, promoting his first album, and she was his support act in a club in Alexandria, Virginia.

Low-key Lovett was taken aback to find that his opening act had brought along a full-

scale rock band, but he was mollified when he found they had learned several of his songs and were happy to act as his backing band too.

That night, Carpenter was signed by an A&R man from CBS Records. In the intervening years, Carpenter has established herself as a major American songwriter and substantial unit-shifter, while Lovett has carved out one of the funniest-shaped niches in the record industry.

The contrast between them on this co-headlining bill verged on the comical. Lovett is touring with his celebrated Large Band, a P.T. Barnumesque undertaking featuring

brass and backing vocalists, plus piano, pedal steel, cello and fiddle alongside guitars, bass and drums. It is like a ghostly encounter between Duke Ellington and Bob Willis, conducted by a Marx Brother who nobody knew existed.

In part two, gravity and three dimensions were restored when Mary Chapin and her conventional five-piece combo belted out her songs over a serviceable country-folk-rock backing. Her opening song, Shut Up And Kiss Me, was reminiscent of Bonnie Raitt (gravelly voice, slide guitar); I Take My Chances suggested Bruce Hornsby (stately chord pro-

gressions); and Naked To The Eye sounded like a combination of Raitt and Hornsby.

All perfectly fine, but it merely served as a reminder of the sheer otherness of Lyle Lovett. He concentrated on songs from his recent album, The Road To Escondido, but that in itself meant a riotous journey through a rapidly-changing patchwork of styles.

A hot-stepping That's Right, You're Not From Texas provided a launch-pad for some fiery improvisations from the horn section and full-throated contributions by the vocalists (who included former Was Not Was men "Sir" Harry Bowens and Sweet Pea Atkinson). Long

Tail Team offered the feverish delusion of the oblique, lopsided Lovett "riding through Texas" to enforce the law, a mismatching of roles on a par with Vinnie Jones addressing the Oxford Union.

Lovett is enjoying his first US country hit in many a year with Don't Touch My Hat, a deadpan declaration of Texan maleness. By comparison, I Don't Love You Any Less ("but I can't love you any more") is a masterclass in classic country songwriting. Its cantering tune and tempo precisely matched to the bitter-sweet paradox of the lyric.

This review appeared in later editions on Saturday.

C&G Mortgage Rate Change

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مکان التعمیر



Made at Pinewood: Tom Cruise in Interview With The Vampire

Studio too busy to mark sixty years of film history

Dan Glaister at Pinewood Studios

SIXTY years ago today 1,000 people gathered on D stage for a celebration lunch of salmon, ham and chicken, accompanied by 1938 Mumm Cordon Rouge, before watching Herbert Wilcox direct Anna Neagle in a scene from London Melody.

But this week Pinewood studios in Buckinghamshire, Britain's biggest film studio, is ignoring its birthday, preferring to get on with the business of making films. Pinewood, like many British

studios, is going through something of a boom. With successes including Mission Impossible, Interview With The Vampire, and First Knight, profits have been at record levels for the past two years, and the refurbished stages are booked into next year. A remake of The Day Of The Jackal, starring Bruce Willis and Richard Gere, is about to start filming.

"The best way to celebrate our 60th year is to be here for another 60 years," says Pinewood's managing director,

Steve Jagg. "We've poured a lot of money into the infrastructure to make sure we'll still be here."

Ten years ago, at the time of the 50th anniversary, things did not look so good. A garden party for 2,500 guests was cancelled, there had just been an announcement that Superman IV would not be filmed at the studios, and staffing levels were dropping from more than 800 in 1985 to 170 two years later. Today, although Pinewood itself employs only 140 people, on a

typical day there are 2,500 people at work. Aside from its technicians and its 18 refurbished stages, one of Pinewood's assets is its setting. It was built next to Heatherden Hall, where the 1919 Irish Free State treaty was signed, an event marked in the forthcoming biopic, Michael Collins. It has starred in movies made at the studios: it was Buggy Malone's mansion, the home in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, and the huddles' headquarters at the beginning of From Russia With Love.



Sigourney Weaver in Aliens, a success that helped keep Pinewood going through the barren 1980s to its current revival

"It's a very nice place to make films in," says George Perry, author of Movies from the Mansion, a history of Pinewood Studios. "It's also got nice creature comforts. The studio's restaurant used to be the old ballroom of the mansion, and the boardroom has panelling from an old Cunard liner."

Pinewood was built in the 1930s by Charles Boot, a film-struck builder, and J Arthur Rank. The studio soon hit financial problems and production stopped at the end of the

1930s. During the second world war it was requisitioned to make documentaries. After the war, the studio entered its heyday. Oliver Twist and Doctor In The House were made there, Marilyn Monroe made a film at the studio, and Truffaut and Chaplin directed there. Later successes included Aliens and The Little Shop Of Horrors.

But the mainstay was the Bond films, starting with Dr No in 1962. Today the studio is too busy for Bond. "They're trying to get the next Bond

film in there but can't because its booked up," says Mr Perry. The last Bond film, Goldeneye, met the same fate.

Pinewood shares with Disney the distinction of being the only major studios still under their original ownership, but Pinewood's future is uncertain. Early last month, the Rank Organisation hinted that it was preparing to sell up. Movies, apparently, do not fit in with its entertainment and leisure plans. Since then, everything has gone quiet, and Mr Jagg, Pinewood's MD, dismisses the suggestion of a sale as "press speculation".

Should Rank decide to sell Pinewood after weathering the barren 1980s, it would be a strange decision. With the thinking coming around to the idea that a centralised studio system is the best way to revive the British film industry, and not just film-making in Britain, Pinewood and Rank would be ideally positioned to assume the role of Britain's leading producer-distributor.

Labour plans pre-school pilot schemes

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

LABOUR plans to test new combinations of state and private childcare and nursery education if it wins the election. David Blunkett, the party's education spokesman, will announce this week.

In an attempt to appeal to working parents, the party is preparing pilot schemes for "one stop shops" where parents could buy childcare and take their three and four year olds for schooling.

Nursery education has become a key electoral battleground since the Conservatives announced a voucher scheme which will hand entitlements worth £1,100 to hundreds of thousands of families in February, with the election only two months away at most. Labour is pledged to scrap the scheme, but nursery education is popular in opinion polls, and the party is anxious to be seen to replace vouchers with something positive.

The pilot schemes will involve small numbers of children and be paid for under

the party's "save before you spend" policy by combining existing public funding and means-tested parental contributions. It is modeled on schemes like one set up by Labour-controlled North Tyneside, which combined voluntary, private and local authority co-operation.

Affordable childcare will enable single mothers to work and become less dependent on benefits, Labour believes. All three and four year olds will be entitled to half a day of free nursery education after 18 months of a Labour government under the party's plans.

In North Tyneside the council expanded its nurseries by charging parents who could afford to pay. Places rose from 95 to more than 400, and a non-profit-making company, Childcare Enterprise Limited, was set up, and last year gained a contract to run the local authority nurseries in Brent, north London, which was Tory-run at the time.

Women QCs 'enjoy reverse bias'

'Complacent attitude' of senior Appeal Court judge attacked

Claire Dyer Legal Correspondent

A SENIOR Appeal Court judge sparked controversy at the weekend when he suggested that some women judges and QCs had got where they were only because of their sex.

Sir Christopher Rose was responding to an accusation from a female barrister that women faced a "hostile environment" at the Bar and in court. He told the Bar Council's conference in London on Saturday: "On the contrary, I can think of one or two exam-

ples, and happily they are very few, where women have been appointed when if they had been men of comparable ability they would not have been."

However, Mary McAleese, professor of law at Queen's University, Belfast, said there was a need to tackle the profession's culture of complacency, "a little of which I heard resonating in Sir Christopher's attitude."

Sir Christopher, who holds the influential chairmanship of the Criminal Justice Consultative Council, called for reconsideration of the rule permitting defendants representing themselves in rape

cases to cross-examine their alleged victims personally. In one recent case the defendant cross-examined his accuser for more than 12 hours over a six-day period.

"The accused representing himself is already precluded from cross-examining a child," Sir Christopher said. "I see no difference between a child victim of sexual abuse and an alleged adult victim of sexual abuse."

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the shadow Lord Chancellor, said he felt the cross-examination in the recent case was "a continuation of the abuse itself."

Lord Irvine warned barristers that an incoming Labour government would cut the high fees paid to QCs in the most expensive criminal cases. The pledge follows disclosures about the earnings of

defence counsel in big fraud trials, which can top £1,000 a day. Six QCs in three of the biggest fraud trials - Guinness, Britannia Parks and Barlow Clowes - were paid more than £300,000 each.

Lord Irvine, a practising QC himself, said 46 per cent of the criminal legal aid budget for higher court cases went on only 1 per cent of cases. There were no standard fees for QCs in such cases, "leaving them as the only practitioners whose fees are left to the indeterminate concept of reasonable fees for work reasonably done."

In the first detailed outline of Labour's plans for the legal system, he said an incoming Labour government would review reform of legal aid and the civil justice system together. This would address

"how the costs of the most expensive cases can be significantly reduced."

Lord Irvine promised a radical overhaul of the system for appointing judges, including a new judicial appointments system, with a strong lay element, to advise the Lord Chancellor. This would require legislation, but in the meantime new procedures to recruit circuit judges by advertisement should be extended to High Court judges. He called for an end to the system of secret soundings, in which candidates are not told what senior judges have said about them.

Lord Irvine promised that Labour would incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law, a move supported by senior judges.

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Vicar keeps worship happy-snappy

Sarah Boseley on the advent of the 30-minute church service



Simple faith... The Rev David Beeton and congregation

PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL ROBERTS

TOO hectic a home life for hymn singing? Baffled by biblical jargon? Never fear. The Reverend David Beeton has the answer.

Yesterday Wednesday in the West Midlands, famous for the invention of the seamless metal pipe, saw the birth of another innovation - the 30-minute happy-snappy church service.

"We did a survey last year of families who had brought their children for baptism, asking them: 'Why won't you come to church?'" said the Rev Beeton. "They said it goes on too long, I don't understand it, it's boring and the hymns make it sound like a funeral."

He has countered with a service designed to harmonise with "post-Christian culture". Centuries ago, Christianity offered all the entertainment, information, education and moral discipline any small community was going to get. But in the era of Oasis, Ecstasy and Baywatch Babes, it can no longer be assumed that anybody knows what the vicar is on about any more.

"We're trying to make very few assumptions of prior knowledge," the Rev Beeton said. "We consciously try to eschew words that wouldn't usually be understood - words like Redemption. Do you have to use a word people don't usually hear? Their eyes glaze over."

Salvation might be more easily explained, he thought. "I was in the navy for 10 years. Salvation comes from the word salvage; you can use the image of a ship in distress

and another ship going out to the rescue and bringing it back to safety."

The three more traditional services at the 700-year-old St Bartholomew's church attract about 80 people in total. Yesterday's Sun quickie brought in 83, most of them young parents with small children. It was held in the modern church hall at the foot of the hill, not in the imposing parish church at the top, still blackened from the industrial revolution.

There was no shuffling in the pews or rustling of hymn books - all the words were projected on to a screen. In place of an organist was Pete Emms with his guitar.

"The congregation loved it. 'It's ideal for me,'" said Diane Carter. "With Emily being so young - she's two - I feel embarrassed if she makes a noise in church."

Sandra Wilde had not been to church since June last

year, when she and her husband had Jenna, now five, baptised at the church on the hill. "We felt Jenna should carry on going to church services," she said. "But they were busy. They were attracted yesterday by the short service and an area with toys and books where children can play if they get bored."

Only the vicar's son, Kirk Beeton, aged 14, voiced a small doubt. "It clashes with Football Italia on Channel 4," he said, "although not everybody enjoys Italian football, of course." Could he not go to his father's 10.30 service at the church itself? "I usually don't get up that early. And it's a bit long," he said.

the week

With specialist news, profiles and the latest developments

Read the week

Daily Saturday

The Guardian

مكتبة

As Bill Clinton summons Middle East leaders, on the street attitudes are hardening

A deep vein of hate

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

THE Israeli-Palestinian clashes of last week have not only gravely damaged the peace process...

On the other side of the city, another businessman, Yussef, explained that it was impossible to expect fairness from "the Jewish".

Politically, Israelis seem much more divided than Palestinians. Several were outraged by the action of the government...

In East Jerusalem, which is Israel's capital, which will never be Palestinian controlled, Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation...



An Israeli soldier dons his helmet as Palestinians protest at the reopening yesterday of the disputed tunnel in Old Jerusalem. PHOTOGRAPH: JOCKEL FRACK

Palestinian police redeem themselves

Sami Aboudi in Jerusalem

THE Palestinian police who fought highly trained Israeli troops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip last week have won new respect among their people.

opened an archaeological tunnel in Old Jerusalem. In at least two incidents, the poorly paid Palestinians overran Israeli positions...

women serve in six branches of the Palestinian police, according to sources in the International Monetary Fund.

rael prime minister, was infuriated by the sight of Palestinian officers firing at his troops.

are allowed to carry light weapons. The deals also provided for a limited number of machine guns mounted on personnel carriers.

Taliban set for new push north

Phil Goodwin in Islamabad and Reuters in Kabul

THE victorious Taliban militia is massing its forces near the town of Charikar, 25 miles north of the Afghan capital...

The Taliban made what must have been a humiliating meeting for the UN envoy conveniently easy. They reopened the city's main airport which had been closed for more than a year...

The militia had shamed themselves and the UN when, after taking over the city, they seized the former Communist-backed president, Dr Mohammad Najibullah...

Dr Holl spent two hours with the leader of the Taliban governing council, Mullah Mohammed Rabbani, and said his main message was that "the United Nations wants to continue the political dialogue and co-operation with the Taliban".

Beard-growing rule imposed

AFGHANISTAN'S new Taliban government ordered government employees to grow beards within one-and-a-half months or face Islamic punishment.

It said short beards would not be allowed, but it did not explain how long a beard should be or whether beards could be trimmed.

words the Taliban show every intention of ignoring. The militia are tightening their control of life in Kabul daily. They have imposed Islamic law, saying people convicted of stealing will have a foot and hand cut off.

Mr Holl said that in pursuit of national reconciliation he would go to the northern town of Mazar-i-Sharif soon to talk to the powerful Uzbek chief, General Rashid Dostam...

Women lose right to pick spouse

Phil Goodwin in Islamabad

A RULING on the right of women in Pakistan to choose their future husbands led to angry protests in the city of Lahore yesterday.

Murtaza murder witness was shot

NEW evidence yesterday cast doubt on police accounts of events surrounding the death of Benazir Bhutto's brother, Murtaza, who was shot dead by police 10 days ago.

der and not suicide. The witness was a policeman, who had said he was injured by Murtaza Bhutto's supporters and the prime minister's brother was shot in the ensuing gunbattle.

gues that the marriage should be declared null because he did not consent to it. The head of the human rights commission of Pakistan, Asma Jahangir, is defending that case.

Suu Kyi crackdown isolates Burma

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok

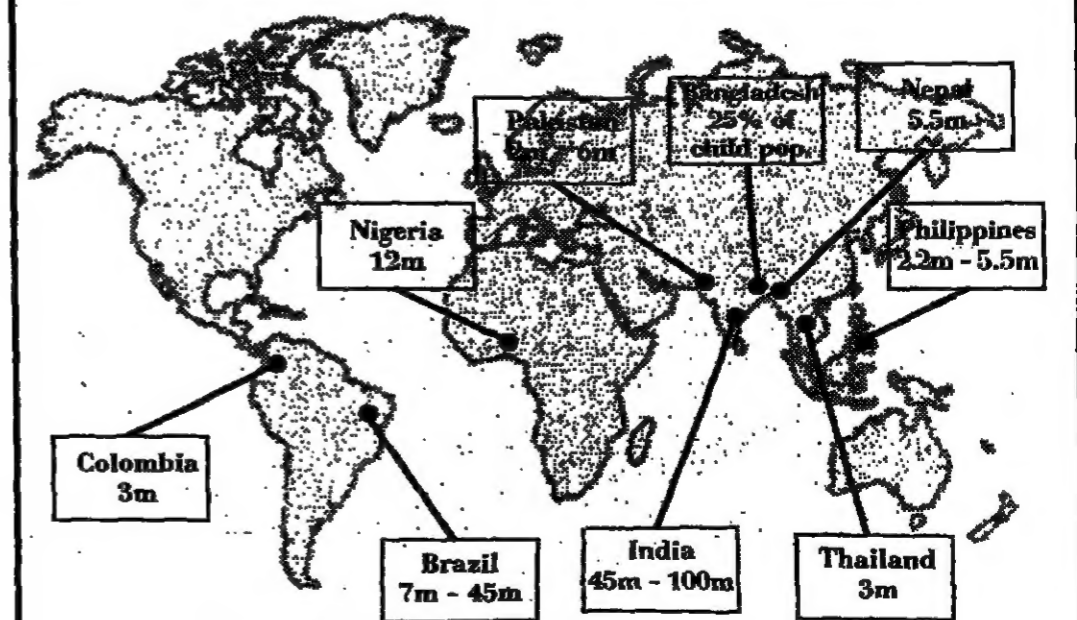
BURMA'S military rulers accused the opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, yesterday of seeking to instigate riots to justify arresting her followers in the National League for Democracy.

The ruling junta's denunciations of Ms Suu Kyi came as troops and armed riot police continued to block roads leading to her house on University Avenue, in the capital, Rangoon.

and intimidating its supporters. The authorities said Ms Suu Kyi was free to come and go as she pleased, but the police action prevented her from making her usual weekend speech to crowds outside her house.

The media said her weekend speeches not only broke the law, but she had also recently "instigated those who come to listen to her roadside talks to be courageous and defy the government without timidity".

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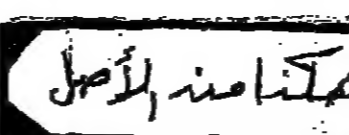
But only a more just world order with financial and political support to poorer countries can truly defeat the twin enemies of child and bonded labour."

Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan

For copies of the London Declaration on child and bonded labour and more information on how you can help the campaign contact ICACABL at 128a Tooley Street, London SE1 2TU.

Pimlott's big worry wasn't so much finding out what the Queen thinks... but rather that colleagues and comrades - his wife even - might reckon that he was smudging a so-far impeccable CV by getting involved with a politically very incorrect opus. John Cunningham on the Queen's new biographer

Profile, G2 page 10



مكاتب التحرير

Rwanda genocide is a lie, court told

Chris McGreal in Arusha, Tanzania

LUC de Temmerman's defence strategy is as brazen as the crime itself. Standing before the first genocide trial since Nuremberg, the Belgian lawyer denies there was any slaughter of Rwanda's Tutsis. And if there was a genocide, then the real victims were the Hutus. "It is going to come out clearly that it is not Hutus who are guilty," Mr De Temmerman said before the trial. "There was no genocide. It was a situation of mass killings in a state of war where everyone was killing their enemies."

Arusha last week and was postponed for a month. But in those two days, the court was given a disturbing insight into defence tactics. Leaders of the deposed Hutu extremists regime have tried to portray the massacre of hundreds of thousands of Tutsis in 1994 as a spontaneous tribal uprising which they tried to prevent. Mr De Temmerman is rewriting history differently. He is the most vocal and belligerent of the defence lawyers, and he makes no bones about the contempt in which he holds the international tribunal. "The goal here is political, not to find justice and truth," he told the court. Twice during a single hearing, the judges rapped him over the knuckles after he swore in French. Afterwards, he accused the judges of being part of an international conspiracy against Hutus, and said he would use a Belgian law to charge them with crimes against humanity. The stocky, puffy-faced Belgian represents Georges Rutaganda, the vice-president of the notorious Interahamwe Hutu militia which spearheaded the genocide. Mr Rutaganda is dying of an undisclosed disease, believed to be AIDS, and is unlikely to make it to a full trial. Mr De Temmerman brushed aside prosecution evidence that the former leader had dispatched Tutsis to be tortured, raped and cut their victims to pieces. "Mr Rutaganda is accused of sending Tutsis to road-

blocks that were guarded by the Interahamwe. Fine. You can send people to roadblocks and they won't necessarily be killed," he claimed. An incredulous prosecution lawyer scoffed loudly. Others wondered just how many Tutsis had survived the barricades. But Mr De Temmerman is

Clinton approves plan for African 'crisis army'

PRESIDENT Clinton has approved a plan to organise, train, equip and help deploy an all-African military force of 10,000 troops to intervene in that continent's crises, senior administration officials said. The African Crisis Response Force would be sent to

countries where insurrection, civil war or campaigns of genocide threaten mass civilian casualties. It would not intervene in the fighting, but would establish and protect safe areas where civilians could gather and receive relief aid. The United States is pre-

pared to fund half the cost of the force, and is counting on European allies to come up with the rest, officials said. The US would also airlift the troops. But the force will be created only if African and European countries agree. — Washington Post.

very basis of the charge. The tribunal must establish what genocide is. What are we doing here today? I have often asked myself that question," he told the judges. While at times claiming there was no genocide, he is equally comfortable with another form of revisionism — that the victims were Hutus, not Tutsis. "There are a million people dead, but who are they? They are 800,000 Hutus and 200,000 Tutsis. Everyone was killing but the real victims are the Hutus. So they've got this so-called genocide all wrong," he claimed outside the court. A spectator wondered if Mr De Temmerman would argue that the Tutsis killed themselves to spite the Hutus. Other defence lawyers are none too comfortable with

their colleague's tactics. Johan Scheers, who represents the first of the accused to go on trial, not only believes the genocide took place but says he is not yet convinced of his client's innocence. Still, Mr Scheers has adopted Mr De Temmerman's bulldozing approach. Last week he accused the prosecution of withholding evidence, and threatened to walk off the case unless he was given more time to prepare his defence of Jean-Paul Akayesu, a former mayor accused of genocide and crimes against humanity. And he shares Mr De Temmerman's doubts that there can be a fair trial. "They have to convict Akayesu. He is the first one to go on trial, so they can't possibly let him go," Mr Scheers said.

Nigeria faces abuses inquiry

San Black in New York

COMMONWEALTH governments agreed last night to send ministers to look at human rights abuses in Nigeria but they held off discussing further sanctions.

The eight-nation Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, meeting in New York, announced that the mission would go ahead despite fears that access to dissidents would be restricted. The organisation has been struggling with the Nigerian question since the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight fellow Ogoni activists during last November's Auckland summit.

Nigeria was given a two-year deadline to reform or face expulsion from the 53-member body, but Commonwealth diplomacy, which depends on consensus, has been plagued by dissent.

Relations among members were further eroded when the group called off a planned mission last month after the Nigerians refused to let ministers meet human rights campaigners.

Canada, Jamaica and New Zealand had all called for tougher action with the Canadian foreign minister, Lloyd Axworthy, last week angrily describing fellow ministers as "appeasers" who were allowing Nigeria "to get away with" the executions.

Mr Axworthy had insisted that the Commonwealth must reserve the right to meet opponents of the regime abroad and not have the terms dictated by the Nigerians. South Africa, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Malaysia have been more cautious, while Britain has stayed on the fence. The New York meeting came after a Human Rights Watch report chronicled alleged murders, torture and oppression in Nigeria. General Sani Abacha's government nullified elections — held to choose a civilian government to replace years of military rule — and jailed Chief Moshood Abiola, who was popularly believed to have won.



Chan Lai-ying, sister of the Hong Kong political activist David Chan, who died on Thursday after jumping from a ship in protest at Japan's claim over a group of islands in the East China Sea, is comforted at a vigil in Hong Kong's Victoria Park yesterday in memory of her brother. PHOTOGRAPH BY VINCENT YU

Lawyer's motion suggests CIA drug link

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

POLICE in Los Angeles are examining a drug case that a lawyer is claiming provides further evidence that the Central Intelligence Agency was linked to the smuggling of cocaine into America's inner cities during the 1980s. Three government inquiries — into the CIA and justice department and by the House of Representatives' intelligence committee — are already under way after

recent allegations of a CIA drug connection. The allegations were provoked by the case of the Los Angeles drug trafficker "Freeway" Ricky Ross, which was reported as part of a series last month in the San Jose Mercury News of California. Now Julian Dixon, a Los Angeles congressman on the intelligence committee, is reviewing a legal petition filed in 1990 by Harland Braun, a prominent California lawyer, in the case of a corrupt Los Angeles sheriff's deputy convicted of complicity in drug dealing. At the time, the motion was little publicised because the judge banned it from the trial and ordered it to be sealed at the prosecution's request. Mr Braun offered as mitigation for his client the fact that deputies recovered "disappeared" from the sheriff's department. He later discovered it had been removed by federal agents. Mr Braun, carrying out the search concluded that the suspect was working with

them the name of his contact at CIA headquarters in Virginia, and was permitted to notify the agency about the search. "Officers discovered films of military operations in Central America, technical manuals information on assorted military hardware and communications, and numerous documents indicating that drug money was being used to purchase military equipment for Central America," the legal motion asserted. "Officers also discovered blow-up pictures of the suspect in Central America with contras [United States-backed Nicaraguan guerrillas] showing military equipment and military bases."

Both worked with Colonel Enrique Bermudez, chief of the CIA's private contra — or counter-revolutionary — army fighting Nicaragua's leftwing Sandinista government at that time. Col Bermudez, who was murdered in Nicaragua in 1991, was a full-time CIA employee and knew many of its top executives. Many black in America have long believed that the CIA either condoned or cyni-

cally encouraged the shipment of huge amounts of cocaine into inner-city communities where it was brewed into "crack" — a cheaper but more addictive form of powder cocaine. The CIA's rationale, the theory goes, was to crush any potential subversive movement among US blacks through the social degradation that the crack epidemic caused. This theory has previously been dismissed as fantasy, but evidence in the Ross case, and now the Braun motion, appears to be lending it credibility. About 2,000 mainly African-American demonstrators gathered on Saturday in the Crenshaw district of Los Angeles to protest about the CIA allegations. "People in high places were winking and our children were dying," said Maxine Waters, a congresswoman who represents the city's south-central district, one of the area's worst hit by the crack epidemic.

News in brief

US budget deal hammered out

A COMPROMISE on public spending sailed through the United States House of Representatives at the weekend and was hailed by the President Bill Clinton as bipartisan progress towards a balanced budget. The accord grants the president the extra \$5.5 billion (\$4.3 billion) he requested for domestic spending, with \$4 billion of that going to education. The new fiscal year starts tomorrow, and without passage of the bill, US federal agencies would be forced to close. The House sent the measure to the Senate where a vote is expected today. The huge spending bill provides \$244 billion for defence and about \$556 billion for domestic programmes. — Reuters, Washington.

Submarine crew 'was spying'

THE North Korean submarine discovered off South Korea's east coast was spying on roads and military airfields for a larger infiltration operation, Seoul's defence ministry said yesterday. The statement was the most detailed rebuttal so far of the communist North's claims that the intrusion was accidental. The North insists the submarine was on a routine training mission when it developed engine trouble and drifted across the sea border. It has demanded the return of the submarine and its crew, and vowed retaliation for the killing of troops who went ashore. So far, 21 North Koreans have been killed or found dead. One other was captured. Four South Korean soldiers have been killed during the manhunt, which is continuing. The South Korean defence ministry statement said a study of the North Korean agents' belongings showed the intruders had taken photographs of a military airfield. They also had a map on which they had marked newly built roads, the ministry said. — AP, Seoul.

Kuwaiti women demand vote

EIGHT days before Kuwait's men-only elections, hundreds of lawyers, doctors, artists and other prominent women demonstrated yesterday for the right to vote. Women across the Gulf emirate staged a one-hour work stoppage in support of the protest. "Please stand up and give yourselves the credit for making the impossible happen today," Lubna Seif Abbas told a rally of about 300 women and scores of male supporters. Just 107,000 men will be eligible to vote on October 7 for the national assembly. — AP, Kuwait.

Zulu reconciliation sought

LEADERS from South Africa's two main rival black parties made a rare joint appearance at a rally in the troubled KwaZulu-Natal province yesterday, urging an end to bloodshed between the two groups. The call was issued by the leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and the chairman of the African National Congress, Jacob Zuma, at a ceremony in Stanger on the Indian Ocean coast north of Durban. About 15,000 people have been killed in the province over the last 10 years in fighting fuelled by rivalry. — Reuters, Stanger.

Tiger stronghold captured

SRI LANKA'S army yesterday captured the Tamil Tigers' northern stronghold of Kilinochchi, the last big town under the control of the separatist rebels. A military spokesman said the troops who launched an offensive a week ago from the town of Paranthan moved into Kilinochchi, 180 miles north of Colombo, after encircling the rebel stronghold. The Tigers set up a base in the town in April after the army had captured the northern Jaffna peninsula. — Reuters, Colombo.



Egypt reopened King Seneferu's Red Pyramid, one of its best endowed pyramid sites, to the public at the weekend, 40 years after the Egyptian military turned the area into an army base. The nearly 4,500-year-old pyramid is in a desert area 15 miles south of the Giza plateau.

'Godmothers' join Mafia

A REPORT prepared for the Italian parliament and published at the weekend reveals a sharp increase in the number of women charged with belonging to the Sicilian Mafia. According to the interior ministry's report on organised crime in 1995, 69 women were charged with membership or collaboration last year. Five years earlier, the total was just one. "The emancipation of women has freed them to play a role in all areas of society," the report says. "This radical change has not been absent from the closed and hidden world of Mafia-related organised crime." According to the report, "women of honour" still appear to make up only a tiny fraction of Cosa Nostra. It says most of them are employed in "white collar" activities. — John Hooper, Rome.

Black leaders shun Farrakhan summit

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

THE black American movement launched at last year's Million Man March seemed close to political oblivion yesterday, as a follow-up convention organised by its leader, Louis Farrakhan, ended in failure. The meeting, a "national African-American leadership summit", was convened in St Louis to build on the success of the 1995 march. Organisers had boasted that 30,000 black activists would meet for a convention that would rival the Democratic and Republican gatherings in Chicago and San Diego. Instead only a few hun-

dred members of Mr Farrakhan's Nation of Islam sect came to St Louis and the leading black American leaders — including the former presidential candidate, Reverend Jesse Jackson — stayed away. "What you see here is the truth slapping you in the face," a delegate, Robert Little, told the Washington Post. "This is what happens if you don't organise." Critics said yesterday's turnout was the result of Mr Farrakhan's failure to capitalise on last year's march — bills were unpaid and lists of volunteers were left to gather dust. But the movement was also badly derailed by controversy earlier this year after a tour by Mr Farrakhan of Nigeria, Iraq, Libya

and Sudan. He came under fire for consorting with dictators. Farrakhan's convention yesterday's convention. Reverend Benjamin Chavis — Mr Farrakhan's key lieutenant — defended the offer of a \$1 billion (about \$666.6 million) gift from the Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, which has sparked a confrontation between the sect and the US government. "This is family business," Mr Chavis said, describing the money as a present from one branch of the African family to another. Currently the sect has been barred from receiving the money under US anti-terrorism sanctions imposed on Libya in 1986. The key cause of the movement's failure, how-

ever, is rooted in electoral politics. With polls showing 90 per cent of black voters supporting President Clinton, most African-American leaders see no room for a third force — and have thrown in their lot with the Democratic Party. "The agenda has been clear for months," said Rev Jackson. "We are working to improve turnout in congressional districts where black and brown people can make a difference." Mr Chavis insisted that black Americans would achieve their goals only if they organised separately. "We've been ignored by Republicans and taken for granted by Democrats," he said. But he made his remarks to a near-empty hall.

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ION AGAINST LABOUR CONFERENCE

Loyalists to a fault

Labour tremors may come later

LABOUR comes to a wet and windy Blackpool on the verge of possibly its greatest electoral victory and perhaps of its longest period in government. If the opinion polls mean anything at all, Tony Blair will be prime minister next time the party meets. If the latest Guardian-ICM poll — wholly in line with our other regular monthly surveys — was repeated in an actual election, Labour would win 405 seats and have a majority of 151 over all the other parties. Labour would have won places like Bury St Edmunds, Lichfield, and Kettering. The Conservatives, down to 200 seats, would have been broken even more than Labour was in 1993, and would surely take more than a parliamentary term to recover. Maybe none of it will happen. Probably the figures will be less dramatic. But the essential point is true. Labour meets on the threshold of something which a decade or more ago seemed impossible — a return to government.

That possibility will understandably dictate everything that happens in Blackpool this week. In spite of all the temptations and off-stage encouragements to do otherwise, this will be a prodigiously united conference. There is barely a single member of the Labour Party, however disillusioned with Mr Blair's leadership, who intends to rock the boat. The discipline of this once internecine party is now formidable. Labour people are genuinely desperate to win. They regard failure as so horrific that they barely contemplate it. Defeat now would be catastrophic for the Labour Party.

That mood was well captured by the weekend deal over pension reform between the leadership and the unions. Pensions has been a hugely divisive issue within the party for months. Barbara Castle's campaign for the state pension to be re-indexed to earnings rather than prices had become the focal point of a substantial campaign in the constituencies and among Labour's large, welfare-rights following. Yesterday, after phone conversations between Gordon Brown and Jack Jones, the campaign effectively came to an end. There will now be, in government, a national commission on pensions in which nothing is ruled in and nothing ruled out. Not for the first time the trades unions have put party unity first and their anxieties second. It will be interesting to see whether the constituencies — which, for the first time, have a majority of the votes (50 per cent compared with the unions' 49 per cent) — mount any sort of revolt when the issue comes up on Wednesday, but the betting is that the sting has now been drawn.

Yet it would be a mistake to imagine that beneath this disciplined exterior there lurks a loyal and disciplined interior. The Labour Party in 1996 is a surprisingly troubled culture. Many of its members rightly believe that they have been compelled to swallow their doubts in the cause of electoral victory. Their personal confidence in Mr Blair as a potential prime minister, as opposed to a potential election winner, is untested. There is a groundswell of anxiety, reflected in the pensions campaign. There is a deep sense that inequality is being neglected in favour of opportunity — all too often a meaningless concept for the poor. Robin Cook's remarks at the weekend may or may not have been an attack on Mr Blair but they spoke for many. They are echoed this morning in Chris Smith's Fabian pamphlet, *New Questions For Socialism*, which states: "If, after five years of a Labour government, we have not succeeded in turning back the march of poverty, then we might as well pack our bags as a political party and go home." Beneath the loyalism, and the probable endorsement of the party's minimalist economic commitments, this is the great fear. It will not be so silent next year.

From the party leadership's point of view, this week in Blackpool is by far the most dangerous event in the political calendar between now and the election. If it went wrong for Mr Blair, the after-shock would ripple through to polling day itself. It might even tempt John Major into an improbable autumn election. The stakes are so high that all the effort is being applied to preventing any such outcome. But the real objective of this week must surely be to give the party and the country the confidence that a Labour government will work, will achieve good goals, will overturn the terrible legacy of Thatcherism and its aftermath, and will set a proud alternative direction. No one is asking for the impossible. A lot of people are asking for something to make the heart beat faster. Electoral victory, though an absolute precondition for everything else, is not enough. The country needs to want a Labour government, not merely to want the end of a Tory one. These questions lie in Tony Blair's hands this week. The prospects of his government will depend upon the answers he gives tomorrow, in what is probably the most important speech of his life.

Tories raise incomes

Or maybe they don't

ONE reason the Conservatives won the last election was because they paid for a nationwide poster campaign warning people how much they stood to lose from higher taxes if Labour won. A public post-mortem is now being conducted over the Conservatives' record in office and, with any luck, we may get a conclusion before the next election. It started a couple of weeks ago when the Conservatives put posters up claiming that since the last election the take-home pay of the average worker and his family had gone up by £700 after allowing for tax and inflation. This claim was repeated in the newspaper adverts taken out by Central Office to recruit disillusioned trade unionists to the party.

Labour replied (in a letter from Alan Milburn, shadow treasury minister, to Tory chairman, Brian Mawhinney) with a rather different conclusion. Far from real income going up since the last election, it had actually declined by £131.24 for a two-adult, two-child family, according to Labour. Central Office has promised to reply this week to Mr Milburn's letter. In the best of all worlds, one or other of the parties would, at some stage, admit that they were wrong, but past experience tells us that this is slightly less likely to happen than for pigs to take to the air. Why not refer this discrepancy of £331.24p to independent arbitration organisation (the Electoral Truth Society?) with both sides bound by the outcome? If such an organisation continued to exist until the final day of the election campaign the electorate might at least be able to vote on the basis of facts rather than posterised fiction.



Letters to the Editor

Israel, Palestine and justice

MARTIN Woollocott's assessment of the situation in Israel (September 27) leads to precisely the reverse conclusion than that which he asserts. It is correct in assuming the intention of many Palestinians that a sovereign Palestinian entity carved out of Israel is but a first step in their overall objectives, how does he manage to conclude that such a state would secure peace in the region, given that, after only 100 days of stalemate, the newly-acquired force of Palestinians is willingly used against Israeli soldiers.

Does he assume that a national Palestinian army would forget the apparent aspirations of its people (and presumably its own soldiers)? Michael Sedgley, London N1.

MARTIN Woollocott rightly questions the moral credibility of Israel because of its failure to accommodate the original inhabitants of what was then Palestine (Israel, caught again in the moral maze, September 29). However, the 20th century

YOUR leader (Pull back from the brink, September 27) offers praise for the mild, critical diplomacy by countries such as Britain and France in response to massive human rights violations by Israel. What is not mentioned is the obligations that all high contracting parties (including Britain, France and the US) have in international law to enforce the humanitarian provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the aim of which is to protect peoples (such as the Palestinians) under occupation by a foreign power. Israel is in clear breach of this convention and of its human rights obligations under the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights.

The international community must exert far more pressure, including consideration of economic sanctions, to protect the Palestinian civilians. Daniel Maschover, Stephen Cragg, Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights, London WC1.

In my book on Arafat, whom I regard as the only Palestinian leader capable of delivering peace from his side, I wrote that he would need the full weight of the international community's support if he was to succeed. I think Arafat should announce, and mean, that he will resign if the international community does not do whatever is needed to require Israel to be serious about peace in accordance with UN Resolution 242 — which is the bottomline of the Oslo Accord. Alan Hart, Storting Commission, Kent TN25.

MR Pora has stated that neither he nor Mr Rabin would have allowed this "needless" tunnel. The United Nations implicitly accepted the *de facto* division of Jerusalem between Arabs and Jews following the 1948 war and subsequent general assembly resolutions have all unequivocally declared "null and void" all Israeli attempts at annexing Arab East Jerusalem, which was captured in 1967. Religious nationalism should not be allowed to dictate the future of Jerusalem or the wider issues of Arab-Israeli relations. La'ayy Mirwan Al-Himawi, Law department, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE.

MR Netanyahu says: "My family came here to this land 100 years ago. For me to think that this is a strange land which I have to discover is abhorrent." But this is precisely how Palestinians feel, with far longer patrimony and with equal religious roots. Alan Norman, Bowness-on-Solway, Carlisle CA5.

With the benefit of foresight, we guess who'll get the cash

YOU ask why the Old Left rubbishes the New Labour proposal on child benefit (Fairer for poor pupils, September 23). There is at least one excellent reason, which you give by saying that "Labour would be redirecting money from those who don't need it to those who do." The Tory word is targeting; the proposal is for another means-tested benefit.

There is abundant evidence that means-tested benefits stigmatise those who claim them, are expensive to administer, and are not claimed by a significant proportion of those entitled. By all means take money from those who do not need it and redirect it to those who do — but the income-tax system is much better equipped to do this than the benefit system. Alan Robinson, 11 Commonsades, Crowle, 5 Humberdale, DN17 4EX.

HOW dare the Guardian support New Labour's plans for scrapping child benefit for 16- to 18-year-olds. Can't you see that it will lead to inadequate help for low-income families, just exactly what it claims to wipe out? Pictures of people at Eton belie the reality. The destitute may benefit, but I would be fairly sure that any family on anything more than subsistence income would lose out. Certainly, all middle-income families will suffer. The solution is to give every 16- to 18-year-old the benefit and to increase income tax at the top end to meet the cost, not simply to penalise most families. Jane Weiss, 38 Agate Road, London W6 0AH.

IT IS astonishing that no one, including Gordon Brown, has pointed out that families on income support have their benefit reduced by the amount of child benefit they receive. In effect, the poorest families gain nothing from child benefit whether their children are over or under 16. It is this fact which makes Labour's proposal such a sensible one. Perhaps Labour should go further and disregard child benefit when calculating entitlement to income support. Michael Dunne, 5 Sheen Gate Gardens, London SW14 7PD.

YOU overlook one small problem — that the further education sector, which would be closely involved in producing the new generation of skilled young people, is in no condition to deliver the goods. Labour's plans are the right answer to the problem of widening post-16 students but, without a corresponding increase in FE funding, the plans will fail. Phil Long, 81a Forest Drive West, London E11 1JZ.

Paul's fall

IM SORRY to disillusion Paul Gambaccini (Interview, September 29), but it wasn't his American accent that so irritated Radio 3 listeners — after all, H C Robbins London has broadcast on the station for many years without causing a revolt. What we all heard so much was his appalling accent-free delivery, allied to a thoroughly emetic script, both of which would have been more at home advertising soap powder. Best to stick to pop music, Gamba. (Dr) R F Carter, 26 Stanbridge Road, London SW15 1DX.



PAUL Gambaccini is understandably critical of the way in which guides BBC managers handled his removal from the network. But no amount of insulting the audience can mask the fact that he failed in his objective. When the show started, he said that the day had the lowest audience he had had since student broadcasting and the intention was to increase it. Instead, it has decreased. Michael Dempsey, 59 Cephas Avenue, London E1 4AR.

Psst, there's a lawyer following me

THE demands for control of our locks or comments on the victim of the September 27) are a symptom of the victim culture. Contemporary society is characterised by pleas for entitlements based upon one's position in the victim hierarchy. The demands of women's groups demonstrate a perverse reaction to the powerless experience by so many in society. By claiming victim status a group effectively gives up on its claim to equal rights. Even the rich and untouchable Princess Diana and assertive Madonna claimed to have suffered.

We are all supposedly at the mercy of inconsiderate or anti-social people nowadays; look at the codes of conduct so frequently imposed at work and in colleges. Any kind of locks or comments can be construed to be harassment, necessitating the intervention of the authorities. The Law Commission's proposals, in abrogating the need to prove intention and replacing it with a test of recklessness, will require that we all become stalker-aware and police our personal interactions to legalised standards. Darryl Bickler, Legal Researcher, Freedom of Law, PO Box 7, 64 Goodge Street, London W1 1FP.

Love on the line

HOW appropriate that the Conservative Party's love letter to trade unionists (Advertiser, September 26) should appear on the same day that British Airways announces its intention to cut wages of some of its lowest-paid workers by up to 40 per cent. Can we now expect a statement of support from the Prime Minister for BA employees in a fight to retain a civilised wage and, should industrial action ensue, who knows, the sight of Tory MPs manning the picket lines? Tony Tucker, Mayfield Cottage, Kingsley, Cheshire.

PETER Preston (Commentary, September 27) regards George Orwell's comment that Mrs Thatcher's vetrically anti-German views are comparable to those of Alf Garnett. He is wrong, of course, as the man was most warmly disposed to the German people. I believe that we should have joined up with Hitler and had a go at the Russians and the Chinese? Michael Petek, 13 Balfor Road, Brighton, Sussex BN1 6NA.

A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT: The drought continues. From the summit of Harter Fall the reservoir of Haweswater seemed barely two-thirds full, the southern arm beyond The Rigg completely dry, the entrance to Rigdale a stony waste and the white strand along the shore scores of yards wide. Sheep contentedly grazed on newly-revealed meadows between the old stone walls drowned almost 60 years ago but there was an air of desolation about the dale that once was the happy community of Marsdale Green. And high into the fells, the merry, splashing music of Marsdale Waters — the beck that leaps down the crags from the twin mountain tarns of Blea Water and Small Water — was stifled, the waterfalls and sliding pools now mere trickles down blackened rocks. High above the Nan Bleid we looked down on Kentmere reservoir, another

write of stone and mud with a drought in the middle, evidence of the effectiveness of the sealing of the outlet pipe after the reservoir had been emptied. It is now filling itself naturally from the fell backs and we thought the pool very slightly larger than a week earlier. We argued with mountain-bike riders on the passes that bestride Harter wondered at the patience of the twitches quartering the fells through binoculars for sight of golden eagles, and admired the enterprise of the ice-cream salesman who drives to the dale-head every day from Mar-yport in the hope of trade from perishing walkers. There were plenty of people about but the anti-cyclonic gloom that has been afflicting these parts of lake, made a rather sad scene. Only a rare glimmer of sunlight on the lively, mirrored pool of Small Water lifted the spirits. A HARRY GRIFFIN

More white heat and less wallpaper, please

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

MY DECISION to go to Scarborough for the weekend on which the Labour Party's conference opened in Blackpool may have been an act of subconscious rebellion. For a spa, looking out to sea from the foot of the South Cliff, it is, or ought to be, one of Old Labour's holy places; it was there that Hugh Gaiskell vowed "to fight and fight again" to save the party that he loved, and in the same hall, Harold Wilson promised to harness the white heat of the technological revolution to the rusty old carriage of Britain's post-imperial economy.

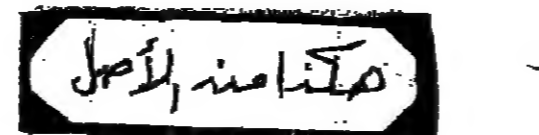
romance. But at Scarborough in 1963 there was, as there will be in Blackpool in 1996, the smell of victory in the air. So, we all cheered our heads off in the hope of building a world fit for statisticians and engineers to live in. Last Saturday, I went to Scarborough with a solemn purpose that I realised, while just once again in York, had a strange, almost perverse, connection with Harold Wilson's determination to bring our capital-starved industry up to date; I was on my way to speak at the dinner that concluded the William Morris centenary conference. And if Morris had been at Blackpool in 1963, admittedly unlikely since he died in 1965, he would have stood up and hissed when the Leader of the Opposition announced his promise to put a computer on every street corner; for, as well as being a natural agitator, he was one of those people that believed the best way of moving forward was to re-create the past.

accepted the invitation, I thought I knew enough about Morris to fill the gap between the loyal toast and Auld Lang Syne. Then I read the conference programme and noticed that, in the days before my guest performance, the deliberations had been enlivened by lectures on William Morris and the Aesthetic Sunflower and William Morris and the Landmark Sagas. I decided that, at the very least, I needed to refresh my knowledge. So, for the first time for 40 years, I read *News From Nowhere*.

I was less impressed by the arcadian dream of turning Trafalgar Square into an orchard than I had been in my irresponsible youth. *News From Nowhere* is full of noble aspirations for the complete fulfilment of the working man by the creation of a society in which the poor are required neither to make, nor to live, surrounded by the second-rate. But it seemed an essentially interior decorator's sort of socialism, the ideology of a man who designed and made beautiful fabrics. I am more

interested in equality than in Liberty's. Reading again Morris's analogy of the New Jerusalem, I marvel that one man could be so right in his description of society's problems but so unrealistic in his analysis of how they came about, and so justified in his call for social revolution, yet so absurd about the form it should take.

philosopher, a man who wrote: "Apart from the desire to produce beautiful things, the leading passion of my life has been a hatred of modern civilisation." The "backward glance" is one of the most seductive, as well as one of the most dangerous, strands in socialist philosophy. It is only Cobbett's reflection that "There was a time in England..." to feel an irresistible nostalgia for our imaginary arcadian past. For the humble and meek, life was rotten in medieval England. It improved with the mechanisation of manufacture and the development of science and technology. And it will continue to improve, as Harold Wilson said over 30 years ago, while we move with the industrial times.



مكتبة النجف

Rome diary John Hooper

IT'S NOT that I'm complaining. The people I talk to, back at the Guardian, include many good friends. It's just that they don't show a lot of, well, respect. And that is something which, living in Italy, you rather come to expect. The first thing I do in the morning is switch on the radio. In Britain, the newscasters just come crashing into your ears with their eyes wide open. Here, they edge themselves through the tradesman's entrance and into the kitchen, bidding good morning to their gentle ascobatori ("court-teasers"). If I drop in at the cafe by the newscasters after buying the papers, I am sure to be greeted with a deferential "Buongiorno, signore". But then, signore, or "sir", is the very least one can expect. When I get to work, there are usually letters and faxes waiting. The faxes will all have been sent for my corse attenzione. On the envelope of some of the letters, I will be addressed as "Illustrissimo" or "most revered", and the letters inside will begin Egregio signore (not "Dear" but "Distinguished sir"). If I need some cuttings, I go to the library of the newspaper where I am based. In spite of the fact that we have a friendly—even joking—relationship, the librarian would not dream of calling me anything but Dottore. The cashier in the restaurant up the road went one better the other day. After taking my money, she gave me my change saying: "They are, Professor."

Signore, Dottore and Professore are all rungs on an invisible ladder that, for a very select few, leads all the way up to Comandante. Comandante is actually a title awarded by the Italian state, but to get called in public you pretty much have to be Gianni Agnelli.

Somewhere between Dottore and Professore, a lot of professional people get stuck with their occupational titles: Avvocato (Lawyer), but also Architetto, Ingegnere, and others. Nor are these just for letters and nameplates.

I was in a restaurant when a man in a suit walked in and was greeted with "Your usual table, Accountant?" It is all part of that least expected aspect of Italian life — what Italians themselves call formalismo. Holidaymakers come here and see a nation of engaging people who smile and laugh a lot, and form the idea that Italians are an easy-going, easy-going bunch.

The reality is a country in which a 19th century mandarin would have felt perfectly at home. And it has evolved a language that allows for microscopic calculations of sentiment.

There is the usual distinction in a Latin tongue between formal and informal versions of "you" (tu and lei in Italian). But there are also greetings and farewells that are appropriate to each, and others between which allow you to modulate the degree of formality. "Buongiorno" is right for someone with whom you use lei and ciao for someone with whom you use tu.

In part, formalismo is a product of Italian generalised mistrust of all but those related by blood or marriage — a phenomenon that has been blamed for everything from the power of the Mafia to the cult of the evasion. At all events, they have a remarkable talent for maintaining their distance while remaining cordial, even warm.

In part, I suspect, formalismo is also a consequence of the fact that Italy has undergone a social revolution of the kind which transformed British attitudes in the sixties. And that in turn may be a result of its never having experienced a leftwing government. This is a country in which the working classes still "know their place", and the purpose of a lot of the formalismo is to assure the middle and upper classes of that fact. Foreigners present a unique problem because it is so difficult to work out where they fit in. I happen to wear a beard of the sort which, in Italy, is much favoured by officers in the army and the Carabinieri.

A few months after my arrival in Rome, I was sitting up in a cafe round the corner when the cashier remarked that he hadn't seen me for a bit.

"No," I said, "I was in Palermo for a while. Then in Naples."

"Not at the organised crime conference?" he asked.

"That's right," I said innocently.

I returned to the bar to pick up my papers, and as I walked past his desk to the door, he gave me a deferential nod, a knowing smile, and touched his forehead with the tips of his fingers in a brief salute.

"Arrivederci, Comandante," he said.

Back to the black arts of Blackpool

Commentary Ian Aitken

DEAR OLD Norman Willis, who used to run the TUC in the intervals between writing witty poems, possesses a large repertoire of satirical songs which he used to perform late at night during party or union conferences. The favourite was a number entitled "I am the man, the very fat man, who waters the workers' beer". Almost as popular was a song, set to the tune of *Ilkley Moor Baat 'At*, which began: "I put a resolution down/ For the conference that was being held at Blackpool". It consisted of a verse by verse account of the devious ploys exercised by the platform to frustrate his resolution. The refrain went: "It was never seen again/ It was neeb-ver seeen again". This good-humoured parody always got a big cheer from Norman's audience, since its members had either practiced the ploys which it enumerated, or had been on the receiving end of them.

Such things were part of the rich folklore of Old Labour conferences, where successful chicanery was a matter for pride rather than shame, and everyone knew the game was played with an exceedingly hard ball. So when it emerged yesterday that a deal had been struck between the leadership and the big unions, whereby Barbara Castle's plea for a return to the pensions policies of past Labour governments would be defused in advance of Wednesday's vote, it felt just like old times. The only real surprise was that the party leader's team of youthful Mister Pisces, known professionally as Blair's Babes, actually understood the black arts described by Norman Willis — and even knew how to work them. Barbara Castle probably doesn't share this vague sense of nostalgia (though she looked surprisingly sanguine about it on the Frost show yesterday morning) but she must at least have felt a strong sense of déjà vu. As an old Ebevalite, she was a victim of just such conference stitch-ups on countless occasions during the 1950s. Famously, she became a victim once more in the late 1960s, when the unions and their representatives at Westminster destroyed her plan for a reform of trades union law — a plan which might

well have deflected the far more stringent measures of Thatcher and Margaret Thatcher. But the pleasing paradox of the present stitch-up (if such a thing can be described as pleasing) is that one of those who share the status of victim with her is Jack Jones, the man who headed the Transport and General Workers' Union when Barbara's trades union reforms were put to the sword. When Harold Wilson famously told Hugh Scanlon of the engineering union to "get your tanks off my lawn, Hughie," Jack's armoured brigade was on the Number 10 grass alongside. Now he leads the organisation of OAPs which has spearheaded the demand for a living pension. Mr Jones, who knows a thing or two about the effectiveness of stitch-ups involving vast union block votes, seemed willing yesterday to acquiesce in a deal whose questionable quid pro quo is a pledge to conduct yet another in-depth review of pensions policy. Lady Castle, on the other hand, made it clear yesterday that she regards promises of that kind as wholly inadequate, bearing in mind what has happened to earlier Labour policy reviews like the Borrie Commission on social justice. That body,

whose creation by John Smith was greeted with fanfares of trumpets, has suffered exactly the same fate as Norman Willis's resolution — it was never seen again. So the woman who has been derisively dubbed the Pasionaria of Pensions by my former colleague and SDP activist, Polly Toynbee, now seems intent on going through the motions of a conference floor revolt, in what looks almost certain to be yet another defeat at the hands of the block vote. At 85, it seems likely to be her last, but by no means her least honourable, battle. Yet, looking disarmingly tiny in an enormous hotel armchair, she assured David Frost yesterday that she wasn't to be bought off by offers of spurious reviews. And quite right too. For this is not a case of Old Labour's last stand, easy though it is to project it in those terms. The reality is

The woman dubbed the Pasionaria of Pensions now seems intent on a conference revolt

that, even if Barbara disappears from the scene, the issue she has raised will not. People will continue to grow old — even people who are quite young now — and they will continue to need a decent income in retirement. Mean-tested benefits are no answer for those who believed they had already paid for an honourable entitlement to security in old age. They have a right to ask how it is that a Blair govern-

ment in 1997 cannot afford the comprehensive welfare state created 50 years ago by an Attlee government which was struggling at the same time to rebuild an economy devastated by six years of total war. If Attlee could do it, why can't Blair? An answer to that question was offered by John Kenneth Galbraith in an article in yesterday's *Observer*. He recorded the extent to which the prosperous American middle classes are sustaining their own comfortable lifestyle by waging war on the poor. Not only had these people no intention of paying taxes to relieve this suffering, the well-off had discovered a positive interest in keeping it going. High unemployment, Galbraith argued, was now seen as the best weapon against inflation. It would be monstrous to accuse Tony Blair and Gordon Brown of endorsing this sort of approach to economic policy. Both are decent, compassionate men. But the climate of thought which their tax-and-spend policies reflect has almost certainly been infected by such attitudes among British middle class voters — the people who, in Robin Cook's view, are in danger of becoming Labour's prime electoral target. Against this background, it is deplorable for Mr Blair to assert (as he did in an *Observer* interview yesterday) that to favour increased taxation and public spending is to be guilty of "intellectual laziness". He can't possibly be suggesting that a literary Stakhanovite like Roy Hattersley suffers from sloth. Or — still more absurd — that Professor Galbraith doesn't stop to think before he writes. That level of debate isn't worthy of New, Old or even Ancient Labour, and should be left to Dr Mawhinney.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS 9 Why rail rage is a feminist issue



Ros Coward

ALONG WITH the usual delays and cancellations which make rail travel so unappealing, a new phenomenon has emerged: rail rage. Recently I witnessed a woman at Euston, sobbing her protests while the rail police relieved her of a penalty fare. I also saw two distraught students being refused the cheap fares to which they were entitled. They had run for the train without a ticket. The new Eurostar posters displayed prominently on most platforms mentions road, taxi, and baggage-reclaim rage. Rail rage is conspicuous by its absence. But rail operators would have to be even more thick-skinned than the Labour leadership not to notice current levels of customer discontent. The Central Rail Users Consultative Committee has just reported "an unrelenting upward trend of passengers' complaints." Simultaneously, The National Consumer Council notes a great success — with plans for great success — with plans for finding customer care "poor" or "very poor".

Some areas of conflict are under investigation. The Rail Regulator has highlighted penalty fares as a worrying by-product of privatisation. Reversing normal legal rights, rail passengers without tickets are assumed guilty. Yet reasons for not having tickets are numerous. Given the infrequency and unreliability of services, you don't let a train go without you. The regulator admits "there is clearly a tension between maintaining the attraction of rail as a walk-on service and educating passengers to allow enough time to buy a ticket." Fine sentiments, except that it is difficult to say "maintaining the attraction" without choking. Complaints and fare-ups are not hiccups in an otherwise attractive service; they are a major expression of travel needs not being served. Perhaps this disaffection has not been fully recognised because the burden of discontent is unevenly spread. Incidents I witness invariably involve women or young people, an impression confirmed by news reports. Recently schoolgirls were turned off a train for being too wet after a downpour and a young black woman had money removed from her purse as a "handling charge" by lost property. Transport is a feminist issue because women, like other groups without consumer clout, are at the sharp end of the complicated marginalised changes caused by privatisation and the break-up of the network. Because their working patterns are more regular, far more men than women are likely to use public transport at peak times when it is at its most reliable. Most are able to plan their journeys in advance, taking advantage of advance booking deals. Even advanced planning is likely to be derailed by the schedules and needs of others. Women's daily journeys are broken for shopping, longer journeys include breaks for family visits. There is nothing new about women finding trains unsatisfactory. Kerry Hamilton, author of *Women and Transport*, says "Women have always stayed away from trains. They are expensive and often don't suit women's complex travel needs." There's no atmosphere of insecurity which women find off-putting. There aren't enough ways to get help should the need arise. The break-up of the network has increased complications and difficulties. Punitive fares for not booking in advance, penalty fines, reduction in off-peak services, and an end to tickets which could be used on "any reasonable route" all adversely affect women. In last week's *Daily Mail*, Andrew Neil defended privatisation. "Far from being the 'poll tax on wheels'... it is already turning out to be a great success — with plans for great success — with plans for finding customer care 'poor' or 'very poor'."

Some 75,000 pensioners have crossed the Irish Sea to enjoy the peace and generous perks such as free television, travel and phone line rental. David Sharrock reports

Off to retireland



STRIKE out due west from the promenade of Blackpool's Golden Mile, leaving behind you transformed British attitudes in the sixties. And that in turn may be a result of its never having experienced a leftwing government. This is a country in which the working classes still "know their place", and the purpose of a lot of the formalismo is to assure the middle and upper classes of that fact. Foreigners present a unique problem because it is so difficult to work out where they fit in. I happen to wear a beard of the sort which, in Italy, is much favoured by officers in the army and the Carabinieri. A few months after my arrival in Rome, I was sitting up in a cafe round the corner when the cashier remarked that he hadn't seen me for a bit. "No," I said, "I was in Palermo for a while. Then in Naples." "Not at the organised crime conference?" he asked. "That's right," I said innocently. I returned to the bar to pick up my papers, and as I walked past his desk to the door, he gave me a deferential nod, a knowing smile, and touched his forehead with the tips of his fingers in a brief salute. "Arrivederci, Comandante," he said.

It seems remarkable in West Cork, where many Irish would like to live but complain they can no longer compete with sterling and the D-mark, that John Taylor has experienced no hostility. "I've been totally accepted in the pub, while many traders have even gone out of their way to deliver goods to my door free of charge." The same easy-going friendliness has even been extended to the growing number of New Age Travellers from England. Tired of harassment from council officers and police in the West Country, they have discovered that it is just as

easy to cash a giro cheque in Cork as in Cheltenham. But in a country of just 3.5 million citizens the news that 75,000 British pensioners are availing themselves of the Irish state's generous third-age perks might provoke a degree of panic. Ireland is not yet a wealthy country. Its taxpayers bear a heavy burden, with a higher rate of 48 per cent kicking in as soon as you start earning more than 28,900 a year. But for such a small country there is a great deal of space. And many are simply returning home. Until this year the Irish republic has been a net exporter of its people. In the mid-1950s and the early 1960s, the economy was inward-looking and stagnant. More than 80,000 emigrated every year, most of them to Britain to seek work building motorways and housing. Many settled, creating strong Irish communities in nearly every English city. But what sustained these emigrants was the thought of returning home. Having paid UK taxes and National Insurance contributions all their lives, it should surprise nobody that they are now spending them back in an Ireland which has been transformed since their departure for richer pastures. There was a striking, if atypical, reminder of this phenomenon just last week when Diarmuid O'Neill was shot dead by anti-terrorist police within hours of the discovery of the IRA's largest explosives dump in Britain. Eoghan and Theresa O'Neill had to return

from their retirement house in west Cork to identify their son, who may have spoken with a cockney accent but who most definitely thought of himself as an Irishman. Their son will be buried in Irish soil. Most of the 75,000 UK pensioners living in Ireland would prefer not to be reminded of Diarmuid O'Neill. There are still hundreds of Irish men and women drawing war pensions for serving in the British armed forces, and a whole department in the Dublin embassy to process their claims. Many prefer to keep a low profile, even though there is some evidence that the icy currents of this century's Irish history are slowly becoming less threatening. Last summer, for the first time ever, an Irish taoiseach took part in Dublin's annual commemoration ceremony for those who died in two world wars. Even a Sino Fein representative was there. In the encroaching age of globalism perhaps the à la carte approach — a career here, a retirement there — will take hold, with the Grey Power looking overseas for the most comfortable home to call Dunroamin. But Ireland, with so much shared history and peoples, will always remain a most popular choice. After all, it was that most British of Irish poets, Louis MacNeice, who wrote: "It's no go the Government grants, it's no go the elections, Sit on your arse for 50 years and hang your hat on a pension."

700 wounded 50 dead

You've seen the TV reports showing the violent clashes between the Palestinians and Israelis. Over 700 Palestinian people have been wounded and 50 shot dead. "People are being operated on in the corridors. The wounded are lying on stretchers all over the place. We just can't cope." (Dr Shawki Harb, Director of Ramallah Hospital) Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) is already there. MAP medical volunteers are working with Palestinian doctors treating the wounded. Local hospitals are appealing for more medical supplies, blood products and medical staff. To help them we need your help now. Whatever your gift will truly make a difference. Post the coupon below or call our credit card hotline 0171-226 4114. EMERGENCY MEDICAL APPEAL I want to help. Please accept my gift of: £20 £15 £10 other £ Name Mr/Mrs/Ms Address Postcode I enclose my Cash Postal Order Cheque CAV Or charge my Access Visa Account No Card Expiry Date Signature Medical Aid for Palestinians Send to: MAP Freepost 33A Islington Park Street London N1 1QB



East meets West... the conflict between Endo's Japanese Buddhist sensibilities and his Roman Catholic faith provide the central theme of much of his writing PHOTOGRAPH: ROBIN LAURANCE

Shusaku Endo

Words across the chasm

NO JAPANESE writer has been quite so well known among such a wide variety of the public in his own country and abroad, as Shusaku Endo, who has died aged 78. He was highly regarded for his novels, short stories and plays, which brought him honours, doctorates and numerous literary awards, and led him to be spoken of frequently as a likely Nobel Prize winner. For many readers in the 26 countries where his books were published, he was the most accessible interpreter of East to West in contemporary literature.

Endo was born in Tokyo but grew up in Dalian, in occupied Manchuria, where his father worked for a bank and where he attended elementary school. The disintegration of his parents' marriage affected him deeply and there are traces of his memories of this painful time in several of his short stories. When his parents eventually divorced, he returned to Japan with his mother. Soon afterwards she converted to Christianity, and it was through her influence and that of the devout aunt with whom they shared a home that Endo became a

Roman Catholic, one of only some half a million in Japan. This sense of being an outsider, acquired through his conversion, was a crucial factor in Endo's development as a novelist and in his ambivalent attitude towards his own country. "I had been baptised as a young boy and was named out by my peers as a follower of a foreign creed," he once wrote. "I was never physically attacked, but I spent my student days as the object of contempt. For me, Japan [then at war with China] had become a loathsome country, and I agonised daily over how I could bring myself to fight for Japan when the day came."

After briefly attending Waseda University, where he had intended studying medicine, he decided instead to read French literature at Keio University. After a brief period of military service at the end of the second world war, he became one of the first Japanese students to be awarded a government scholarship to study abroad, and in 1950 he sailed for France. At the University of Lyon he specialised in the work of the Catholic novelists Georges Bernanos, Julien Green and Francois Mauriac and began to immerse himself

in the new culture. "Optimistically I began to believe I had taken the first steps towards acquiring an understanding of Europe," he wrote in his introduction to *Foreign Studies* (1989). "And yet, in about the middle of my second year, I learnt that towering beyond the hill I had scaled lay an enormous mountain... As a Japanese confronted with the tradition, rich cultural heritage and confidence of Europe, I came to sense a certain unfathomable distance."

It was this mountain, or gulf, between East and West, the conflict between Endo's Japanese Buddhist sensibilities and the tradition of Hellenistic Christianity inherited through baptism, that provides the central theme of much of Endo's work, not least his masterpiece *Silence* (1967). This was first brought to the attention of readers in Britain by Graham Greene, a writer whom Endo admired and with whom he was frequently compared.

Endo saw it as one of his tasks as a writer to find "somewhere within the great symphony of Catholicism", to quote from his translator William Johnston's introduction to *Silence*, "a strain that fits the Japanese tradition and

touches the Japanese heart". He took up the subject again in such later novels as *The Samurai* and *Deep River*, in some of his intensely personal short stories, as well as in his play *The Golden Country*. He even wrote *A Life of Jesus* to show his countrymen that the Christian tradition might not be quite as alien as they imagined.

After four years in France, Endo returned to Japan, and in 1954 won the prestigious Akutagawa Prize for his first novel, *The Wind Man*. His controversial novel *The Sea and Poison*, about a Japanese doctor forced to take part in the vivisection of prisoners-of-war, appeared in 1957.

THEN came *Volcano* and *When I Was Ten*, a witty comic novel closely based on his own protected experiences over three years in hospital wards where he endured numerous operations. Endo was dogged by ill health, but this never affected his good humour or his cheerful acceptance of misfortune. During one of his many operations, his heart stopped for a few seconds. "The doctors thought I was dead," he wrote later. "But the devil's own

luck is with me, and I have managed to survive." And survive he did, with the help of his wife, with whom he lived in Tokyo, and his son, to become the leading writer of his day.

Endo was always eager to introduce foreigners to the wonders and mysteries of Japan. In 1959 he spent a month there at his invitation and was able to experience at first hand his distinctive humour and generosity. The novelist and his friend Kenzo Kogi met me at Narita airport and I quickly realised Endo could go nowhere in his own country without being recognised, complimented and photographed. No Western writer would be so revered.

His manner was usually jolly and informal, reassuring and relaxed; he was much amused by cultural incongruities: the gatchiness of Westerners coping with Japanese formality and vice versa. Though well versed in European literature, he never mastered much English, but retained some fluency in French.

There was nothing conventional about the tour of Japan that Endo arranged for me. It was typical of him that on my second night in Tokyo he

should give a dinner party in a private room at the very same Chinese restaurant at which his fictional hero, Soguro, meets his mistress in Endo's 1968 novel, *Scandal*. "Do you recognise these surroundings?" he asked with a mischievous smile. "I thought it might make good copy for you."

In order to see authentic aspects of Tokyo, he recommended a visit to the docks and the fish market on the southern island of Kyushu. I was shown the places where the 16th-century Jesuit missionaries (the subjects of his novel *Silence*) died for their faith; in Kyoto, he suggested certain temples and shrines, but I was to be sure to eat at the country's best restaurant and visit "le quartier rouge".

He said with a twinkle, "Ask for Mr. Ohtake and mention my name."

It was a name that guaranteed special treatment throughout Japan, and one which commanded respect and honour wherever he went.

Shusaku Endo, writer, born March 27, 1923; died September 25, 1996

Leslie Crowther

Come on downmarket

EVERYONE loved Leslie Crowther, who has died of heart failure aged 63, except the critics. He will probably be best remembered as the composer of TV's *The Price Is Right*, which he introduced to Britain from America in 1984. A self-confessed workaholic, his judgment of the worth of his material did not always live up to his formidable energy.

He was equally at his apparently lightweight ease in the children's television show *Crackerjack*, hosting adult gameshows, telling gags as a stand-up comedian or opening countless shops, bazaars and fairs. He was a loving if often absent father of five, an obsessive worker for theatre charities and a man who struggled courageously with alcoholism.

The Price Is Right, with its catchphrase "Come on down!", instantly went to number one in the audience ratings, a fact which caused some critics to cringe with shame at what television and its mass audience had come to. They thought the show had all the worst attributes of America: it was loud, brash and appealed to naked greed.

Crowther's view was that the programme had "taken British TV by the scruff of the neck and shaken it". This view said more for his enthusiasm than his taste - which in private areas, including collecting antiques for his Georgian mansion near Bath, was often above average.

His connection with *The Price Is Right* had all the accumulating tragedy of a morality tale. As a private venture he and a partner took the show to Blackpool where, according to Crowther, the contestants got so skilled at leaving the right prices to one another that the rest of the prizes were wiped out the profits. Crowther saw this as an utterly baffling disaster rather than as an ironic illustration of market forces. In 1988, without explanation, Central TV axed the programme and Crowther leaped into the alcoholism which dogged him until he joined Alcoholics Anonymous.

Four years ago, his Rolls-Royce overturned on the M5, leaving him with permanent brain damage (police ruled out any suggestion that alcohol was involved). He seemed bound to die, but with typical determination recovered sufficiently to walk and talk again, though he retired from show business, his great energy diminished.

Leslie Crowther spent his childhood in Nottingham where his father, an unsuccessful actor with a drink problem, took over a sub-post office. His father had imposing height, which his son inherited. His mother, a stage manager who had more than her father in rep, was small but dominant. His parents, seeing that Leslie was a talented pianist, moved to London to be near the Royal Academy of Music. They had cycled from Nottingham to find a London house.

Leslie went to Thames Valley School, Twickenham, where he was cast as Higgins the Highwayman of *Cranford* in the end of term play. He was then sent to the Concorde film school, which

had a contract with the BBC. Here Crowther met his wife Jean, won the drama cup, got an introduction to Robert Atkins, who gave him parts in the Regent's Park Opera. Air Theatre productions of *Much Ado About Nothing* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and broadcast with his wife in a concert party. At the same time he was playing Chopin at a junior exhibitors concert at Duke's Hall.

After appearing in the *Academy Award* show, he got a part with Dorothy Squires in *Dick Whittington*, the first of many pantomimes. But his career did not take off until he was in the stage show *Intimacy At Eight*, which became a hit. The bill job in *Crowther's In Town* at Wellington Pier, Great Yarmouth, where he broke box office records.

It was the beginning of a highly successful pattern. TV came next, including the series with Richard Wilson, *My Good Woman* and stage work, each fertilising the other. But by the 1980s the

regular appearance of hoodlums in the audience put him off pantomimes; he was sick with drunk driving and his career faltered.

He said in his 1984 autobiography, *The Bonus of Laughter*, that *The Price Is Right* rescued him from the doldrums; but it proved a contentious reason. The positive side was that even after his nearly fatal accident he was still able to work for the stage charities he loved. He had for many years been a member of the Grand Order of Water Rats and had also been president of The Lord's Taverners. He was made a CBE in 1983.



Crowther...workaholic

Leslie Crowther, entertainer, born February 25, 1933; died September 29, 1996

Andy MacElhone

Hey mister, follow that cab to Sank Roo Doe Noo

MANY British expatriates moved to Paris after the first world war, painters such as Stanley William Hayter, writers including Somerset Maugham, and even some who wanted to cater to mundane tastes, like Scottish-born Harry MacElhone, who in 1925 opened Harry's Bar at 5 Rue Dauphine, near the Opera, in the very heart of Paris.

American expatriates were always more noticeable than the British, especially those dubbed by Gertrude Stein "the lost generation". They

made up much of the clientele of Harry's in the early days, musicians Aaron Copland, George Antheil and Virgil Thomson; writers and editors Caresse Crosby, Scott Fitzgerald, Kay Boyle, Robert McAlmon, Ezra Pound and T S Eliot. Even James Joyce would sit in before the opera. MacElhone reputedly invented and mixed the first Bloody Mary to cure the hangovers of Ernest Hemingway, one of his most regular patrons.

Andy MacElhone, who has died aged 73, was Harry's son,

born on the day his father bought the bar, and inherited it on his father's death in 1939.

American-style bars - where you sit at the bar instead of at tables - sprang up in Paris during the first world war to cater for American soldiers on leave and later for the civilians who came after 1919 to take advantage of favourable exchange rates and a life-style very different from prohibition America.

Andy MacElhone started to work with his father in 1939 but in 1940, with the Germans

advancing, they fled. Andy joined the British Army, using his French in the Intelligence Corps, and rising to the rank of captain. Father and son returned to Paris in 1947 and reopened the bar. Although the clientele remained predominantly American, Harry's became a meeting place for Paris's whole expatriate community.

But expatriates tend to go home, and Andy, without changing the atmosphere, made considerable and successful efforts to attract French writers, academics

and journalists. He would invite Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir to meet American and British intellectuals and many, as a result, were published in Sartre's *Les Temps Modernes*.

Today it remains a dimly-lit long room where you might find yourself conversing with a French or a Scottish journalist, an adventurous American tourist, or the author of yet another book on "the lost generation" sniffing out the atmosphere. Harry cleverly anglicised the address phonetically to Sank Roo Doe Noo

on his cards, so that taxi drivers could easily find it.

Andy retired to Cannes seven years ago. Harry's is now managed by his son, Duncan, who trained to be an investment banker, but decided to become the third generation owner of one of Paris's best-known watering holes.

John Calder

Andrew MacElhone, bar owner, born February 8, 1923; died September 16, 1996

Jackdaw



Think theories

GRAND PRIZE WINNER: When a cat is dropped, it always lands on its feet, and when tossed is flopped, it always lands with the buttered side facing down. I propose to strap buttered toast to the back of a cat; the two will hover, spinning inches above the ground. With a giant buttered cat array, a high-speed monorail could easily link New York with Chicago.

RUNNERS-UP: 1. If an infinite number of red necks riding in an infinite number of pickup trucks fire an infinite number of shotgun rounds at an infinite number of highway signs, they will

eventually produce all the world's great literary works in Braille.

2. Why yawning is contagious: You yawn to equalize the pressure on your eardrums. This pressure change outside your eardrums unbalances other people's ear pressures, so they must yawn to even it out.

3. Communist China is technologically underdeveloped because they have no alphabet and therefore cannot use acronyms to communicate ideas at a faster rate.

4. The earth may spin faster on its axis due to deforestation. Just as a figure skater's rate of spin increases when the arms are brought in close to the body, the cutting of tall trees may cause our planet to spin dangerously fast.

HONORABLE MENTION: The quantity of consonants in the English language is constant. If omitted in one place, they turn up in another. When a Bostonian "palks" his "cab," the lost's migrate southwest, causing a Texan to "warsh" his car and invest in "ert wells."

Results of a contest for

"theories", sponsored by OMNI magazine. Thanks to anonymous.

Small fry

MICROSOFT is boasting that it has sold 40 million copies of Windows 95 worldwide in a year. It still has a long way to go before it catches up with the really big guys, though: McDonald's serves more than 40 million fast food fanatics in the UK alone, in a month; M&S sells 52 million pairs of knickers in the UK every year; we scoff 624 million Mars bars a year in the UK; and 170 million tubes of Rowntree's fruit pastilles "go down a treat" each year in the UK.

Computer Life putting Microsoft in its place.

Empty future

JUST imagine! No traffic jams or parking problems. No check-out queues or housing shortages. No waiting for hospital beds or plumbers. This could be reality in years to come if the current trend towards homosexuality

and lesbianism continues. A very subtle point being made in the Fleet local paper, The Sun. Thanks to Christopher Thornis.

Anarchy rules

NOW the football season's started already - get your bust card from Footy Fans against the CJA.

30/9 Mass Picket - Seaford Dock Liverpool - 10am National CJA action hosted by striking Liverpool Dockers - out for one year - info as 28/9. Followed this week by Labour Party congress for fun and disruption - help their election campaign... gouge out Blair's eyes!

5/10 Picket McDonald's for all the usual reasons.

5/11 COPEX - the "security exhibition where they don't sell torture equipment to Indonesia. Burma etc, and if you say they do: they'll fucking sue you. Range of non-violent actions from blockades to non-arrestable things.

A few items from the anarchic calendar printed in

Contraflow. Thanks to S Hamilton.

Steering clear

FRENCH car manufacturer Renault has proudly announced that its vehicle range will soon be equipped with the world's first on-board breathalyser, the DAR (Renault Alcohol Detector). Within three years most Renaults will offer the option, at around £40, of a dashboard-mounted ethylotest, which tells drivers whether they are over the limit within five seconds.

Champagne corks were popping at the news, especially given that France has the highest level of cirrhosis of the liver in Western Europe, as well as having some of the continent's worst road accident figures. The cars are marketed "voitures a vivre" - cars to live with. But if the dashboard read-out tells the drivers that they are sozzled, will the car refuse to start? It would be simple for the on-board breathalyser to cut engine output. But they have

decided the average Frenchman is not ready to accept that Renault should take the place of the fibres of law and order.

So will it make any difference? Reported in the New Scientist.

Shoppers' law

THE ART OF SHOPLIFTING Within capitalism, most of us are either (1) alienated from

our labour and hence dependent on the ruling classes for commodities as basic as food and clothing, (2) excluded from the division of labour, in which case we are likewise dependent on the State, or (3) performing unpaid and/or unrecognised labour and hence dependent on patriarchal relations for food, clothing etcetera. In any case, our access to resources is severely limited by contemporary relations of domination. One partial solution to this problem may be to steal.

Sadly, however, many people living precariously on low incomes tend to either (1) avoid shoplifting for anarchic moral and/or ethical reasons; or (2) remain ignorant of the better methods and techniques of shoplifting, thus failing to maximise their lifting potential.

From the onset, the golden rule of theft should be enunciated: never steal from somebody who could conceivably be a comrade.

It is best to play it safe and go straight for the big corporate fucsters. Some people will suggest that shoplifters are a

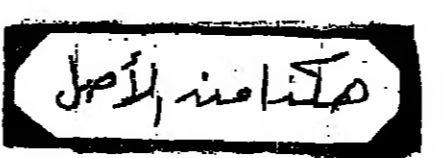
selfish breed, since "we all pay for it in the end" through inflated prices to cover losses and so forth. However, comrades, this and closely analogous arguments are used to justify lowering wages, breaking unions, lowering corporate taxation and taxation on the rich, etc.

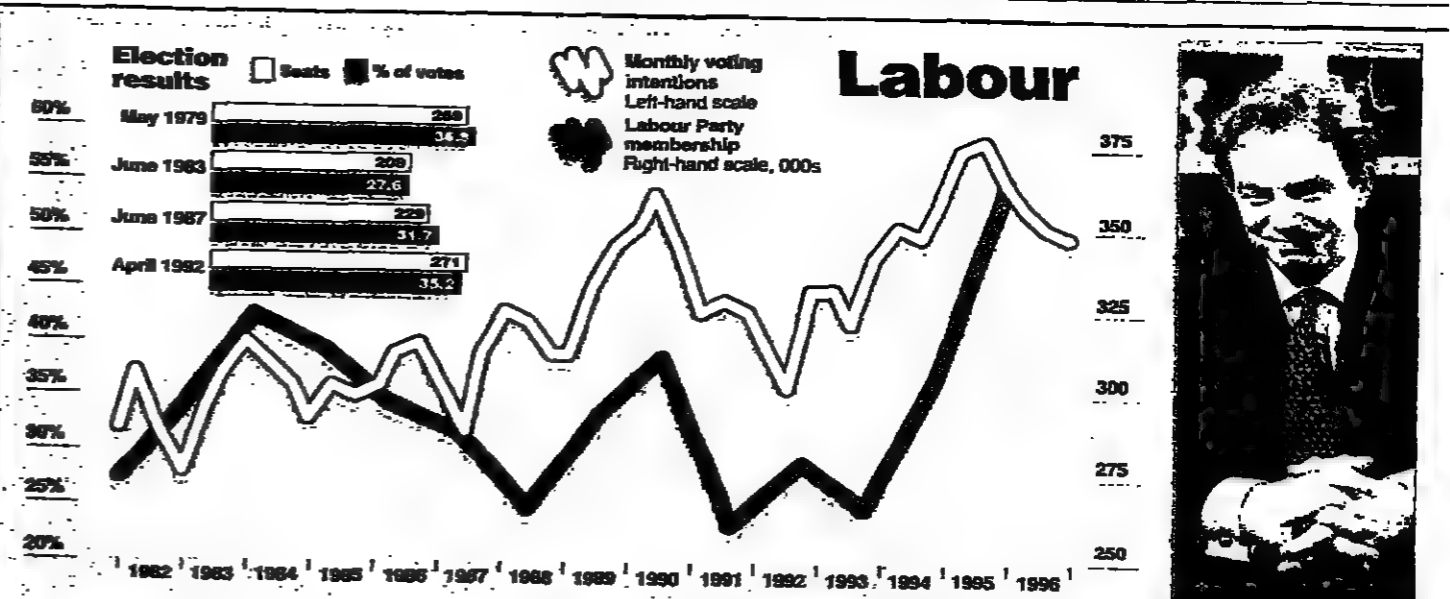
No, the injunction against stealing from capitalism is itself a capitalist ideology and should be spurned as such. Although we have been taught that "thou shalt not steal," an order historically backed by threats of divine retribution, this should not stop us for one minute from taking the redistribution of wealth into our own hands. Believe me, no one is likely to do it for us.

Tomorrow in Jackdaw, tips on how to shoplift successfully. Taken from the marxism list-server. Thanks Michael Jovic.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail: jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax: 0171-713 4566; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 115 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield





ELECTION BATTLEGROUND/New Labour's corporatist blueprint faces twin perils of disbelief and disillusionment

Managing to get it wrong



Larry Elliott

JOHN Major's poster campaign wooing trade unionists is a gem. Labour may regard the claim that the Government is the friend of ordinary working men and women as a monumental piece of cheek, but boy does it hurt.

but nothing big, and nothing dramatic. There are three possible explanations for Labour's cautious approach. The first is that Mr Blair is simply a Tory in disguise, someone who is offering a deeply conservative electorate the option of a change of government with the guarantee that everything else will remain pretty much the same.

The second argument is that Mr Blair would like to be more radical but feels cramped by what has happened to the economy — domestically and globally — in the 22 years since Labour last won an election.

Grand plan is to show it has different priorities for dividend from growth

of policies that will make him the darling of the poor, the pensioners, the unemployed, the sick and the homeless. He would have higher taxes to fund the re-linkage of pensions to earnings, renationalisation of the utilities, more money for health and education, a commitment to full employment, a minimum wage of £4-plus per hour and so on.

By 2002, according to the grand plan, Labour will have shown that it can govern, and will have shown that it has a different set of priorities for the dividend from economic growth.

screw up through inexperience, and be blown off course by the financial turbulence which is likely in its first few months in office. It could be daft enough to join the single currency as a short-term insurance policy, it could be split by internal struggle.

Second, the obsession with macro-economic stability may be a case of fighting yesterday's war. With even the IMF now saying that monetary policy can directly affect output and employment, there is potential to run a more expansionary economic policy.

JOHN PINK is the kind of businessman Tony Blair wants on board the New Labour express. His firm, Wiltron, is a world leader in hi-tech microwave technology which actually exports to the Pacific Rim.

The Social Spook, minimum wage and the 48-hour week do not cheer Mr Pink. "I don't want to waste my most valuable resource, my staff, by making them work all the hours. If you treat people well, you get good work out of them."

There has been a swing of the pendulum in recent years, with people seemingly less concerned about standards of living than about quality of life. But nobody knows how far it has swung.



Coy responses to Blair's New advances

Stevenage is tired of the Tories, but still sceptical. RICHARD THOMAS reports

JOHN PINK is the kind of businessman Tony Blair wants on board the New Labour express. His firm, Wiltron, is a world leader in hi-tech microwave technology which actually exports to the Pacific Rim.

He is an internationalist, declaring: "The only way forward is through a strong Europe and a single currency." But he is a patriot too: "If you cut the top of my finger off you wouldn't see blood and bone. You'd see a Union Jack, just like a stick of rock."

Voters cling tightly to social security blanket

Pensions debate needs more than pragmatism, writes SARAH RYLE

FEW would dispute that the welfare system needs radical reform. Although there are dangers in the view that the welfare state has become a burden (one gaining credibility by constant repetition), it is undeniable that maintaining provision even at existing levels, let alone Thatcher ones, demands tough choices.

Supply and cost of welfare provision have risen as recession and slow growth have raised unemployment and reduced government revenue. Demographic changes, primarily the ageing population, and the growth of single-parent families have increased the amount of provision needed.

government becomes how to reduce demand in an acceptable way. The Conservatives approached this in 1983, when Sir Norman Fowler boasted that his review of the welfare state would be the most radical since Beveridge published his blueprint. The resulting changes in legislation in 1988 were sweeping.

The British people seem to have a soft spot for cradle-to-grave care, so the issue for



A sprinkle of support... Henry Holland at the Poacher pub, Stevenage, and (top) John Pink at Wiltron have mixed feelings about New Labour

He lives near the Poacher pub, where two staunchly Labour men, both labourers, are enjoying a post-work pint. Tom Shaughnessy has voted Labour since moving to England in 1983. Understandably, he wants more council-house building. "If we're going to pay taxes, I'd rather it went on providing homes for people," he says. "And I think Blair's a good leader."

Mr Prince is forthright about the need to remove the Conservative government. "My dad had cancer a few years ago, and was in hospital for ages. He came out and said he was going to kill Mrs Thatcher. I said I'd drive him."

anyway, because he always does. If Stevenage, and the country, swings Labour's way at the polls, Mr Williams and Mr Shaughnessy hope for old-fashioned improvements in pensions, pay and housing. Mr Pink has a blunt retort to the prospects of radical change. "At the end of the day, it probably won't make that much difference," he says. "Governments think they run the country, but they don't."

As the boss of a firm with a US parent and a Japanese owner, he has Old Labour-sounding views about where power really lies. "Business rules the world, not politicians. That's just the way it is."

Deconstruction work

Worm's eye Dan Atkinson

IT'S that man again! Yes, the rallying cry is here, witnessing the dynamic young lawyer compared by some to the late President Kennedy and by others to the junior housemaster who, for ever suggesting a coffee and a chat about your "attitude".

government and industry, workers' managers. A new generation of tilting trains, unsaleable nuclear reactors, supersonic aircraft no one wants and big lunches all round at Noddy; Our vision is of the company as a community in which each employee has a stake. Here comes the Official Receiver; We seek to shift the emphasis in corporate ethos. Jobs for all in the new ethical-surveillance bureaucracy; Solidarity, co-operation, partnership — these are our words: As are Opportunity, Responsibility, Fairness, Trust (4/10/94). And Ambition, Idealistic, United (3/10/95). Oh, not forgetting Investment, Quality, Trust (8/1/96). Then of course

Unity, Solidarity, Partnership (3/10/95); The future lies in the marriage of education and technology; More media-studies courses; We need to create one nation, one community; Get ready for compulsory co-operation, presided over by social workers; Leading-edge, competitive businesses have nothing to fear from us: Provided they fill in the appropriate forms; Our ambitions are your ambitions: Any directorships going begging? We all want ordinary, hard-working families to pay less tax. But that's life; This is a new age, to be led by a new generation; Hey, hey we're The Monkees!

Tourist rates — bank sells

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia	1.0075	France	7.79
Austria	16.21	Germany	2.3075
Belgium	47.38	Greece	367.00
Canada	2.085	Hong Kong	11.77
Cyprus	0.7025	India	35.89
Denmark	4.50	Ireland	0.9475
Finland	7.0575	Israel	4.98
		Saudi Arabia	5.82
		USA	1.5250

Indicators

TODAY — US: Personal Income (Aug); US: Personal consumption (Aug); JPI: Industrial production (Aug); UK: Net credit business (Aug); UK: M0 (Sep); FR: Unemployment rate (Aug); TOMORROW — US: Purchasing managers index (Sep); UK: Purchasing man index (Sep); WEDNESDAY — US: Construction spending (Aug); GIER: Industrial production (July); GIER: Manufacturing orders (Aug); UK: Official reserves (Sep); THURSDAY — US: Factory orders; FR: BOF Council meeting; FRIDAY — US: Non-term payroll; TOMORROW — US: Unemployment rate (Sep); UK: Average hourly earnings (Sep); JP: Trade balance (Aug); JP: Current account (Aug); Source: DHB International.

RECORD BREAKING RIDING AT THE ASCOT FESTIVAL

Chris Hawkins on the ebullient young Italian jockey who brings a smile to British racing

Dettori the genius with a grin

AS HE dismounted for the final time at Ascot on Saturday after riding all seven winners...

me not to do my jump from the horse in the winners' enclosure, but I thought, what the hell, he said.

we saw in that pulsating St Leger finish which earned him the controversial Thursday whip ban.

had it. He made mistakes, but he learned from them and never made the same mistake twice.

and several of the smaller men standing up on the track were not there yesterday.

accountant bet on all Dettori's Ascot mounts, though Bill's showed some back when he had the same bet when collecting his booty yesterday...



On the mark... Frankie Dettori brings home Mark of Esteem for the third of his seven Ascot victories



Fan club... Dettori proves a hit with the autograph-seeking ladies at Ascot yesterday

Sleepytime proves Eddery nightmare

FRANKIE DETTORI'S winner-trail went cold at Ascot yesterday when it was a case of after the Lord Mayor's show.

of Verse in the Ascot Fillies Mile. Sleepytime, the 11-8 favourite, finished third after an appalling run as Pat Eddery contrived to get her into all sorts of trouble.

"I replied that he had to run as Sir Noel Murless always told me never to be frightened of one horse."

Balding should be on target with Sabina and Blaze Away

[AN BALDING'S] horses are in fine form and the Kingsclere trainer can continue the run by handing the opening two races at Bath today with Sabina and Blaze Away, writes Ken Oliver.

Bath with guide to recent form

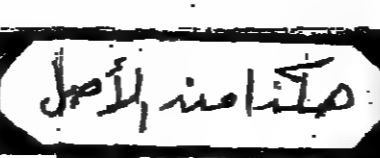
Table of race results and form guides for Bath, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Hamilton runners and riders

Table of race results and form guides for Hamilton, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Results

Table of race results from various tracks, including Ascot, Bath, and Hamilton, listing race numbers, names, and winners.





Last of the summer winners... competitors at Nice race for the sea at the start of the International Triathlon, won by Luc Van Lierde; Alex Zille nears victory in the Tour of Spain; and Pete Sampras wins the Swiss indoor tennis title in Basle

Weekend results

Soccer

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Table of football league results for the FA Carling Premiership, including teams like Arsenal, Manchester United, and Liverpool, with columns for goals scored and conceded.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

First Division

Table of football league results for the Nationwide League First Division, listing various clubs and their performance metrics.

U.S.A.

First Division

Table of football league results for the U.S.A. First Division, featuring teams like D.C. United and Chicago Fire.

Second Division

Table of football league results for the U.S.A. Second Division, listing clubs such as Tampa Bay Rowdies and San Antonio Scorpions.

Third Division

Table of football league results for the U.S.A. Third Division, including teams like the Carolina Railcats and New York Cosmos.

Fourth Division

Table of football league results for the U.S.A. Fourth Division, listing various regional clubs.

U.S.A. (Continued)

Continuation of U.S.A. football league results, covering additional teams and matches.

U.S.A. (Continued)

Final continuation of U.S.A. football league results, including teams like the Tampa Bay Rowdies.

Baseball

Major League Baseball

Table of Major League Baseball results, showing scores for teams like the New York Yankees and St. Louis Cardinals.

Baseball (Continued)

Continuation of Major League Baseball results, covering teams like the Boston Red Sox and Atlanta Braves.

Baseball (Continued)

Continuation of Major League Baseball results, including teams like the Chicago Cubs and Pittsburgh Pirates.

Baseball (Continued)

Continuation of Major League Baseball results, covering teams like the San Francisco Giants and Los Angeles Dodgers.

Baseball (Continued)

Continuation of Major League Baseball results, including teams like the Houston Astros and Cincinnati Reds.

Baseball (Continued)

Continuation of Major League Baseball results, covering teams like the Philadelphia Phillies and Milwaukee Brewers.

Baseball (Continued)

Continuation of Major League Baseball results, including teams like the Detroit Tigers and Cleveland Indians.

Baseball (Continued)

Continuation of Major League Baseball results, covering teams like the Kansas City Royals and Baltimore Orioles.

Baseball (Continued)

Continuation of Major League Baseball results, including teams like the Texas Rangers and Florida Marlins.

Baseball (Continued)

Continuation of Major League Baseball results, covering teams like the San Diego Padres and Colorado Rockies.

Baseball (Continued)

Continuation of Major League Baseball results, including teams like the Arizona Diamondbacks and Montreal Expos.

Baseball (Continued)

Continuation of Major League Baseball results, covering teams like the Washington Nationals and Pittsburgh Pirates.

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Baseball (Continued)

Continuation of Major League Baseball results, covering teams like the Washington Nationals and Pittsburgh Pirates.

Rugby Union

International Rugby

Table of international rugby results, including matches between England and Wales, and Scotland and Ireland.

Rugby Union (Continued)

Domestic Rugby

Table of domestic rugby results, including league matches and cup games.

Rugby Union (Continued)

International Rugby (Continued)

Continuation of international rugby results, including matches between France and South Africa.

Rugby Union (Continued)

Domestic Rugby (Continued)

Continuation of domestic rugby results, including league matches and cup games.

Rugby Union (Continued)

International Rugby (Continued)

Continuation of international rugby results, including matches between Australia and New Zealand.

Rugby Union (Continued)

Domestic Rugby (Continued)

Continuation of domestic rugby results, including league matches and cup games.

Rugby Union (Continued)

International Rugby (Continued)

Continuation of international rugby results, including matches between South Africa and England.

Rugby Union (Continued)

Domestic Rugby (Continued)

Continuation of domestic rugby results, including league matches and cup games.



Striking return... Stan Collymore puts Rieper and trouble behind him and Liverpool in front in the third minute at Upton Park yesterday

PHOTOGRAPHY: DAN SMITH



Taking the strain... Ray Harford can't watch

Premiership: West Ham United 1, Liverpool 2

The Reds ride out in style

Martin Thorpe sees Liverpool prove their title credentials in a searching examination

WINNING the title takes spit as well as polish, and Liverpool showed yesterday that they can shine with the best of the battlers. The extension of their lead at the top of the Premiership is a reward for matching West Ham's tigerish approach when it mattered before emerging with enough style to show who was boss in an entertaining and absorbing game.

Their loss through injury of influential players such as Fowler and Wright ended up as a minor problem, though the England new boy Matteo enjoyed a less than international-class game as sweeper and, when Collymore limped off after 19 minutes, Liverpool badly lacked a focal point up front. "With hindsight," Roy Evans admitted later, "I should have put on young Lee Jones a lot earlier."

wide and Bowen shot just over after a cracking one-touch movement with Hughes. For spells Liverpool could hardly get beyond their 18-yard line, as West Ham pressured the visitors' ball-playing defenders, and at one point Scates was forced into a very un-Liverpool-like boot of the ball aimlessly upfield just to relieve the pressure.

Everton 2, Sheffield Wednesday 0

Wednesday's side has far to go

IT HAD not been much of a week for either club. On Wednesday, Joe Royle of Everton and David Platt of Sheffield Wednesday had spent much of the morning attempting to explain away their embarrassing League Cup defeats the previous evening.

Chelsea 1, Nottingham Forest 1

Lee sticks in gracious Gullit

as sweet as a pineapple. The execution was as outrageous as its effect. Chelsea dominated throughout, had created two dozen clear chances to Forest's two. They put 12 shots into the first half and saw seven superbly denied by Crossley in the second after Vialli had beaten him. And Frank Clark said afterwards that Forest had worked on ways of countering Chelsea's approaches.

of route one. It worked and even Leboeuf was discomfited by Lee's height and control. But it would drive Brian Clough to... It drove Gullit to think. "It was difficult to say anything afterwards because you have to cool down first," he said. "Everybody is very frustrated. Nobody tries to miss chances. I have nothing to blame my players for. They worked hard and did everything to win the game."

Little spot of bother with McGrath

ling with us to Newcastle," said Little. "I called him into my office to ask him about comments he had made. He told me they were true, apart from the fact that he was not prepared to pay back the summer signing on fee he had received from us just so that he could leave."

Red signals go for Milan

MILAN overcame the sending-off of Zvonimir Boban to beat Perugia 3-0 yesterday with the help of two more goals from George Weah.

McGrath... sent home

loyalty is not being repaid by Villa," he said. "What angers me most is that the club seem intent on blocking any opportunity for me to go elsewhere..."



McGrath... sent home

Coventry City 0, Blackburn Rovers 0

Rovers head towards a cul-de-sac

ready they are four points away from safety.

FOR teams who are bottom in late September the threat of relegation is nothing more than a rumble of distant thunder. But if they are still bottom when the clocks have gone back and the leaves are no longer on the trees then the storm clouds will surely gather overhead.

Commentary

David Lacey

Less than 18 months ago Rovers were Premiership champions. A year ago their prime cause for concern was finishing last in Group B of the Champions League. Now they could be in serious trouble which money alone will not solve.

Five pages of sport

Racing
Frankie
Dettori's
unforgettable
weekend
12

Soccer
Liverpool
three points
clear at
the top
15

SportExtra

NORWEGIAN'S DOUBLE LIFTS UNITED INTO THIRD SPOT AS TOTTENHAM RUE MISSED CHANCES



Striking the first blow... Ole Gunnar Solskjaer thumps United's first goal past the despairing lunge of Sol Campbell at Old Trafford yesterday. The youngster has scored five goals in eight games for his new club PHOTOGRAPHS: MICHAEL STEELE

Premiership: Manchester United 2, Tottenham Hotspur 0

Sharp Solskjaer strikes it rich

David Lacey

ALLEX FERGUSON will be Tony Blair's guest at the Labour Party Conference this week. It was not altogether appropriate, therefore, that

Manchester United should choose yesterday to perform with the languor of the idle rich.

Yet it would be harsh to describe the victory over Tottenham, which has taken United to third place in the Premiership, as unearned in-

come. There were more and more glimpses of their better passing rhythms, and each goal was taken with admirable aplomb by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the 23-year-old Norwegian who has now scored five times in eight games. So far he has not failed to find the net at Old Trafford.

Ferguson was largely satisfied with the performance, his main complaint being that his defence had been "very slow in trying to win the ball back". But he raised United's football in the last third of the field. "The speed of the passing was very, very good," he said, "and we always looked as if we were going to win it."

Theory, however, was not always borne out in sluggish practice which mirrored United's approach in the second half of their Champions League game against Rapid Vienna four nights earlier. Perhaps thoughts of the immediate tasks in hand persuaded Ferguson's side to play so much of yesterday's match in a low gear.

A number of players will be on international duty in the World Cup during the coming fortnight. After that United face Liverpool at home, followed by their Champions League game with Fenerbahce in Istanbul. Then they go to Newcastle.

Even so, yesterday's patchy performance could have cost Manchester United dear. With Sheringham back in Tottenham's attack, having missed five Premiership matches with a thigh injury, and Campbell restored to the defence, the visitors played with rather more authority than they had done in losing 2-1 at home to Leicester City a week earlier.

There were periods when

United, again without an injured Keane, found themselves so hustled and harried in midfield that they were unable to retain possession long enough to set up any sort of passing pattern. At times the play passed Cantona by, at others the Frenchman was as profound an influence as ever.

Sinton's speed and control on the left gave Gary Neville a difficult afternoon, not made any easier by Poborsky's lack of support. Even after the Czech had been replaced by Scholes, who understands something about the dignity of labour, Neville still struggled to contain the Tottenham winger.

In the end the match was won by superior playing

resources. United had lost Johnson from central defence but May, recalled alongside Pallister, proved a consistent obstacle to Spurs and Irwin was his usual rocklike steadiness at left-back.

Giggs, who had suffered an ankle injury in the first half, stayed off for the second. Cruyff took his place and again suggested that he might be happier in a central role rather than staying on the left flank.

Ferguson had some sympathy with this. "I really don't know what Jordi's best position is," the United manager admitted, "but perhaps it is in the middle. That gives me another problem, of course. Some players pick themselves and Solskjaer can't be ignored while he is continuing to score goals."

Tottenham were only partly back to strength. They still miss Mabbutt at the back and, though Anderson's discomfort as he awaits another groin operation had been obvious the previous Sunday, Spurs could have done with his ability to vary the pace and direction of their movements.

The 18-year-old Allen, continuing to deputise for Armstrong, yet another Tottenham casualty, continues to impress and yesterday provided an alert and intelligent foil for Sheringham's inventiveness.

Another couple of inches and Allen might give Spurs the lead on the quarter-hour when he lunged in late to meet Sinton's dipping centre and only narrowly failed to make contact.

By then Solskjaer had offered a portent for the way things might work out, not so much by waiting the ball over the bar but through his satiate sense of anticipation in being in the right place at the right

moment to meet Poborsky's low cross.

The opening goal arrived eight minutes before half-time. Campbell had been reaching most high balls but Giggs's cross from the left caught him out of position, Solskjaer's first touch was true, and the Norwegian allowed himself the luxury of a second before beating Walker.

Sheringham's lack of match practice showed when he

managed only a weak header

after Fox's chip had left him clear and inside, and again late in the match when, even allowing for the excellence of Schmeichel's stretching save, he should have scored.

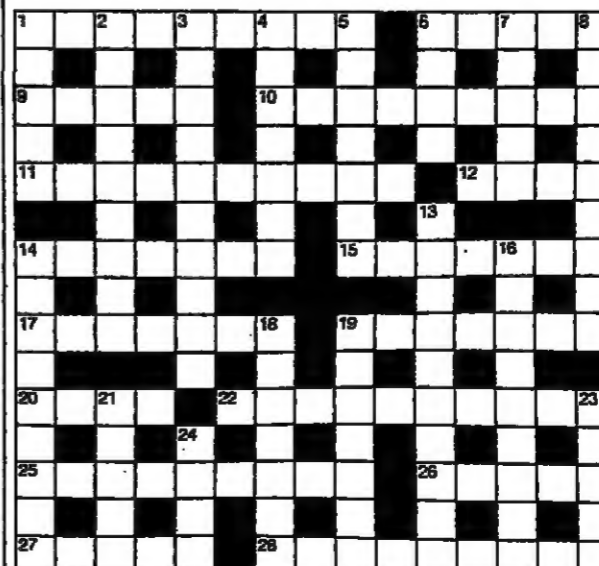
Solskjaer, meanwhile, had increased United's lead three minutes before the hour, driving the ball into the net after Cruyff, Cantona and Butt had worked the ball to him. "They took their chances, we didn't," said Gerry Francis,

the Tottenham manager, and nobody could argue with that.

The controversial theme of the weekend continued when Howells, trying to chest a bouncing ball down in the United penalty area, inadvertently controlled it with an upper arm and was promptly booked by Gary Willard. Referees still have discretion over the matter of intent where handball is concerned, and this was surely a case for using it.

Guardian Crossword No 20,771

Set by Crispa

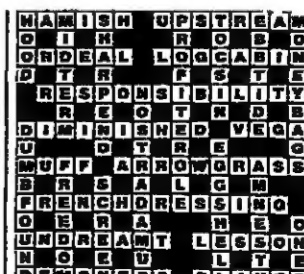


Across

- 1 Pay five hundred is the order (9)
- 6 Kind about 20 (5)
- 9 A learned parson in a wild frenzy (5)
- 10 A certain European scheme occupying a man who's loaded (9)
- 11 Restores control by the USA (10)
- 12 Taking an old sovereign in, look decidedly pleased (4)
- 14 Quite possibly not once appearing mean (7)
- 15 1 ac. — refer to the paper (7)
- 17 The humblest takes without thanks in appropriate situation (7)
- 19 Big craft centre (7)
- 20 Miss the inexperienced driver, a fool (4)
- 22 Overapill not serious? That's illuminating! (10)

Down

- 1 Showing spirit, a top journalist backed up protest (5)
- 2 Awareness of some words written about the unit (9)
- 3 Grave remembrances, and the sad results one's read of (10)
- 4 Free — let out again (7)
- 5 Lacking iron say (7)
- 6 He's within easy reach apparently (4)
- 7 An assistant given a rough ride (5)
- 8 The least conventional room in the streets (9)
- 13 Soldiers rope everyone in, as may be remembered (10)



WISDOMS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 20,771
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Mr L Shaw of Worsley, Manchester, Paddy Coffey of Farnham, Hants, Rossard Stansfield of Edinburgh, Harold Margolis of London, and Henry Kinisols of Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin.

- 14 The beef responsible for sickness? (9)
- 16 Leading, so maybe standing by (9)
- 18 Cultivation right up to a person's last years (7)
- 19 Skinhead npping towels, being most stupid (7)
- 21 Against going in alone to work out (5)
- 23 A score agree (5)
- 24 The boss endlessly reading (4)

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BITTER

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BREWERY, BEDFORDSHIRE. EST. 1876.

He has a wide circle of mates, all benefiting from his munificence ("My mam's never asked me for anything," he says. "Nor me dad, he's never asked for anything, well except a house, a boat, a seven 7-series BMW and a canny wage").
Jim White sees the real Gazza

G2 cover story

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.